

June 2016

Choice+ Clinics

Choice+ clinics are funded by the Prime Minister's GP Access Fund to help people who need same day appointments. There is a Choice+ clinic in every area of Gloucestershire. Your nearest clinic is at St Paul's Medical Centre, 121 Swindon Road, Cheltenham, GL50 4DP, but you can go to whichever clinic is most convenient for you. The clinics are staffed by experienced local GPs. Clinics are open every day of the week, including Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. Evening appointments are also available.

How do I access a Choice+ clinic?

Ring your GP practice as normal. A nurse or GP will take some brief details of your medical problem and offer a Choice+ appointment if this would be suitable for you. You may also be offered a Choice+ appointment if you attend a Minor Injury & Illness Unit at a community hospital.

What sort of problems are suitable for Choice+?

Choice+ is suitable for people with medical problems that are new - such as tonsillitis - or that have got worse, for example someone with COPD (also known as emphysema) who may have a chest infection that needs treating quickly.

Are there problems that are not suitable for Choice+?

Usually, if you have already seen your own GP about a problem, or the appointment is about a long-term medical condition, it would be more appropriate if you continue to see your own GP who already knows about your condition, including tests and treatments that you have received. There are some exceptions - for example, if your long term condition, such as COPD or asthma, has temporarily got worse due to a chest infection, Choice+ will usually be able to help. When you ring your GP surgery, the doctor or nurse who speaks to you will be able to advise whether Choice+ is suitable for you.

Do Choice+ clinics have access to my medical records?

At the moment, Choice+ doctors do not have access to full medical records. We hope that this will soon change and that Choice+ will be able to access your records if you give them permission to do so. Please bring a list of the medication you take to your Choice+ appointment.

Does my own GP know what has happened at my Choice+ appointment?

When you come to a Choice+ clinic, you will be asked if you are happy for a record of your appointment to be sent to your own GP. Provided you say yes, a summary of the appointment will be sent to your own doctor.