

# Changes to the Out of Hours Pharmacy at Litherland Town Hall Health Centre

From 1 April 2015 the Out of Hours Pharmacy will be replaced with a new system, so you'll still be able to get all the urgent medicines you need after seeing a doctor from the GP Out of Hours service:

- **Take your prescription to a nearby chemist** - your doctor will give you details of which ones close by are open late and weekends.
- **When these are closed** - the doctor will give you any medicines you need during your consultation, mainly late night at weekends and bank holidays.
- **If you can't travel** – your doctor will supply any medicines you need at any time during the out of hours period.

## Why is this happening?

A great deal has changed since the Out of Hours Pharmacy was set up. These days there are plenty of chemists nearby that closely match the opening times of the Out of Hours Pharmacy late at night and at weekends. So now, there's little or no need for such a small and restricted service.

The Out of Hours Pharmacy is only for people using the GP Out of Hours service. This change will help us to invest in and improve other priority health services that are used by more people.



## What we know about the Out of Hours Pharmacy...

We've carried out a thorough review of this service, which is only for GP Out of Hours (OOH) patients:

- It dispenses relatively small amounts of medicines - fewer than 1% of all medicines dispensed across Sefton.
- Around 3,600 people attend the GP OOH service each year and only a proportion of these will need a prescription.
- The Out of Hours Pharmacy has much shorter opening times than regular high street chemists because of its links to the GP OOH service.

## What people told us about the service...

From a public consultation we found:

- Over 60% of people thought closing the service would cause them little or no inconvenience if they had to travel to another chemist.
- Around 80% thought the NHS should target its money on more priority services.
- A number of people value the convenience of the service.

## How we've responded...

We're putting an alternative system in place to make sure patients from the GP Out of Hours service still have access to all the urgent medicines they need:

- When nearby chemists are closed, doctors from the GP OOH service will supply medications directly to patients during their consultation.
- This already happens when people attending the GP OOH service need medicines after 11pm when the Out of Hours Pharmacy is closed.
- Anyone who finds it difficult to travel will be given their medicines directly from the GP Out of Hours doctor, so they are not disadvantaged by this decision.

For more information about this change call **0800 218 2333** or visit:

[www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk](http://www.southseftonccg.nhs.uk)