

DOCTOR

Why register with a doctor?

You never know when you or a member of your family will become ill or need advice so you should always be registered with a family doctor so that they have access to your medical records and know about any previous treatment you may have had. If you are moving into a new area you should register with a doctor straight away – don't wait until you need medical treatment.

Choosing a doctor

The Patient Services Department of all NHS Trusts will have a Health Information System and maintains lists of all the family doctors in the country. Also more details can now be found at the national NHS UK site.

How to register with a doctor

Contact your first choice and ask if you can register as a patient.

Remember to take your NHS medical card with you. If you are accepted, the doctor will send it to Patient Services and you will then receive a new card with your new doctor's name.

If you do not have a medical card, you will be asked to fill in an application form (GMS1). Please supply as many details on this form as possible to enable your previous medical records to be traced.

Note: Also provide any details of current family members registered with the current practice as this may have a reflection on your application.

Patient Services will then issue you with a new card and arrange for your new doctor to receive your medical records.

Sometimes it may not be possible to register with your first choice of doctor. If this happens you should contact the other practices that cover the area in which you live.

You must make every effort to register with a doctor yourself and should try others in your local area if your first choice cannot take you on their list.

Useful websites:

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

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