**Pharmacy First – key messages**

* The roll-out of Pharmacy First across England is an important step in the NHS’ plans to make access to healthcare more convenient for millions of people.
* The new service means you can now get treatment for seven common conditions directly from your local community pharmacy without the need for a GP appointment or prescription.
* Conditions you can get treatment for include sinusitis, sore throat, earache, infected insect bite, impetigo, shingles, and uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women aged 65 and under.
* By giving people more choice in where and how they access care Pharmacy First will free-up up to 10 million GP appointments over the next year, helping people to get the care they need more quickly.
* Community pharmacies already play a vital role in keeping their local communities healthy and well, with over 200,000 people supported each month when they start new medicines, and over 1 million blood pressure checks taking place over the last year allowing those with high blood pressure to be identified and referred for onward management, and almost half a million women are able to access the pill this year without needing to contact their GP first.
* The new service builds on this work with £645 million of new funding invested to support the continued expansion of community pharmacy services.
* Pharmacy First forms part of a raft of improvements from the NHS and government’s primary care access recovery plan, which was announced by the head of the NHS and the Prime Minister in May 2023.