

Do I need to see the Doctor or the Nurse Practitioner?

You may have seen a Doctor in the past for all your problems and queries relating to your health, but here Gillingham Medical Practice you are just as likely to be offered an appointment to see a **Nurse Practitioner**.

WHAT IS A NURSE
PRACTITIONER?

DID YOU KNOW! - You can see a Nurse Practitioner for many problems that you would have previously seen a Doctor for? at be

A **Nurse Practitioner** is an experienced registered nurse who has undertaken further education and specialist training, usually at degree or masters level. In addition, they are Independent nurse prescribers which enable them to sign their own prescriptions.

Nurse Practitioners have developed their skills and knowledge in order to assess and examine you. They can diagnose, provide advice and offer treatment. If necessary, they can refer you to hospital or arrange for you to be seen by a Doctor.



Nurse Practitioners can see and treat minor illnesses in adults and children such as,

- Coughs / colds / chest infections
- Earache / ear infections
- Sore throats / tonsillitis
- Aches and pains / strains and sprains
- Skin rashes
- Conjunctivitis / eye problems
- Eczema
- Allergic reactions
- Skin infections
- Urine symptoms / infections
- Vaginal discharge
- Contraception- (injection/implant/pill/patch)
- Women's Health including -coil checks and removal/smears/vaginal discharge/swabs/HRT/ring pessary change.

PLEASE NOTE this is simply an indicative sample, it is not exhaustive.

Nurse Practitioners **DO NOT** routinely provide travel information or immunisations, change dressings or perform blood tests, blood pressure checks or ECGs