

# Why do I need to register with a General Practitioner (GP)?

**NHS**



A GP is a **local family doctor** and usually your first contact if you have a health problem.

You need to be **registered with a GP** to get medicine, hospital referrals, tests and treatments as well as invitations to vaccinations and cancer screening.

Anyone in England can register and be seen by a GP **free of charge**.

Appointments are available **seven days a week**, including evenings and weekends.

It is important to register with a local GP **as soon as you can** when you move house or when you arrive in England, so you can see the GP or a member of their practice team when you are sick.

If you need to see a GP, but have difficulty speaking or understanding English, tell the staff at the GP surgery. They will be able to arrange for an interpreter. **You will not be charged**.



## How to register

You can register with any GP in your **local area** as long as you are in their catchment area.

You **do not need** a permanent address, to provide proof of address or immigration status, ID or an NHS number.

You can register by going into the practice and filling out a form or you can register online.

Find out how to register in person and online and how your GP can help you: [northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/GP](https://northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/GP)



## Parents and guardians

It is **very important** that babies and children are registered with a GP so they can easily get the help they need, including vaccines that protect them from **serious diseases**. This usually means filling in a separate form for them.

