

## Improved Access Clinics

Improved access clinics are provided to help people who need same day appointments. There is an Improved Access clinic in every area of Gloucestershire. Your nearest clinic is at The Vale Hospital or at Wotton-under-Edge but you can go to whichever clinic is most convenient for you. The clinics are staffed by experienced local GPs. Clinics are open during the week, including Saturdays.

### **How do I access a clinic?**

Ring your GP practice as normal. A Receptionist will take some brief details of your medical problem and offer an appointment if this would be suitable for you. You may also be offered an appointment if you attend a Minor Injury & Illness Unit at a community hospital.

### **What sorts of problems are suitable for Improved Access**

Improved Access is suitable for people with medical problems that are new - such as tonsillitis - or that have got worse, for example someone with COPD (also known as emphysema) who may have a chest infection that needs treating quickly.

### **Are there problems that are not suitable for Improved Access**

Usually, if you have already seen your own GP about a problem, or the appointment is about a long-term medical condition, it would be more appropriate if you continue to see your own GP who already knows about your condition, including tests and treatments that you have received. There are some exceptions – for example, if your long term condition, such as COPD or asthma, has temporarily got worse due to a chest infection, Improved Access clinic will usually be able to help. When you ring your GP surgery, the receptionist who speaks to you will be able to advise whether Improved Access clinic is suitable for you.

### **Do Improved Access clinics have access to my medical records?**

At the moment, doctors will be able to access your records if you give them permission to do so.

The nearest locations of Improved Access appointments for Walnut Tree Practice patients are:

The Vale Hospital, Dursley GL11 4BA

The Chipping Surgery, Wotton Under Edge GL12 7BD

Culverhay Surgery, Wotton Under Edge GL12 7LS