

# **BRINNINGTON SURGERY**

## **URGENT APPOINTMENTS FOR UNWELL CHILDREN**

We understand that having an unwell child is very worrying for any parent and you often want quick advice from a doctor. As such the practice reserves some appointments each day for urgent medical problems. The appointments are available from 8.30am every morning (Monday-Friday). If all the appointments have been taken before you ring we will offer a phone call from a doctor or an emergency appointment at the end of one of the doctors' surgeries.

Some conditions can be managed with advice over the telephone or advice from a local pharmacist. The local pharmacies can offer advice and treatment for a number of minor ailments including: coughs, colds, head lice and conjunctivitis.

When considering if your child requires an urgent assessment the following information may be of use:

- ≡ Most common infections do not get better with antibiotics
- ≡ Most children with a cold, cough, sore throat, or earache who see their GP will still be ill 4 days later. This does not mean that they need treatment or need to be seen again.
- ≡ One third of children with signs of more serious illness generally need to be seen by a doctor. These signs include:
  - Excessive drowsiness
  - Difficulty breathing or rapid breathing
  - Cold or discoloured hands and/or feet with warm body
  - Abnormal pains in arms and/or legs
  - Abnormal colour (pale or blue)
  - Persistently high temperature not responding to medication
- ≡ Symptoms related to meningitis
  - Unusually severe headache
  - A stiff neck (difficulty putting chin to chest)
  - Dislike of bright lights
  - A rash that does not fade with pressure

**IF YOU FEEL THAT YOUR CHILD  
NEEDS TO SEE A DOCTOR WE ARE  
HAPPY TO SEE THEM**