

Prescribing Paracetamol on the NHS:

The facts

Every year, the NHS in Mid-Nottinghamshire spends approximately £800,000 on prescribing paracetamol as tablets, caplets, and suspension products

This money could be spent on:

**160
MORE**

**hip
replacements**



or

**26
MORE**

**chemotherapy
treatments**



or

**30,000
MORE**

**breast cancer
hormone
treatments**



or

**980
MORE**

**cataract
operations**



When required in small quantities or for short periods, it is better for the NHS if people buy paracetamol without a prescription.

For this reason, Newark and Sherwood, and Mansfield and Ashfield Clinical Commissioning Groups – your local NHS organisations responsible for planning and buying health care – have asked GPs to stop prescribing paracetamol in smaller quantities for short-term use.

You can help with this by buying these painkillers from a pharmacy or shop. Many individuals and families already manage short term illnesses themselves using inexpensive over-the counter medicines and advice available in Pharmacies. Taking responsibility for treating short-term illnesses means that you get treated conveniently and quickly and conserves NHS resources.

Please consider whether you still need to get paracetamol on prescription.

Paracetamol costs two to three times as much to the NHS compared with the over the counter price.

Many patients are prescribed paracetamol regularly for long term pain management and this is a recognised therapeutic and cost effective choice, and not something we are changing.