

Ear Pain

This guide is based on NHS policies, but it cannot cover all the possibilities. If you think that there is a special reason why you need an appointment which we have not listed here, please dial 111 for an assessment.

Check the reasons for Priority Access as listed on the back of this sheet

YES

Is the person seriously ill?

YES

Is the person a child under 2 years of age?

YES

Is there any discharge from the ear?

YES

Is there a new problem with hearing?

YES

Has the pain lasted more than 4 days?

YES

See a doctor or minor illness specialist for an assessment

Talk to a pharmacist about self care

Priority Access

Patients who are especially vulnerable to infections will be given priority when they request a same-day appointment.

This includes:

- **Babies under six months old**
- People with:
 - **Serious breathing problems** (e.g. severe asthma or COPD)
 - **Current cancer treatment**
 - **End of life care**
 - **Problems with the immune system (“immunosuppressed”):**
 - **HIV, leukaemia, poorly controlled diabetes, or spleen problems**
 - **Transplant** patients
 - Taking medicines that increase the risk of infection, such as **prednisolone (steroid tablets)** or **chemotherapy**
 - Treatment from a **rheumatology** specialist such as methotrexate or “biologicals”