

# Cutlers Hill Surgery

Home Visits are reserved for the following groups of patients:

- Terminally ill;
- Housebound or have difficulty getting into a car;
- Patients who are severely ill in bed;

Although a traditional part of general practice, home visits are time consuming. Please remember that several patients can be seen in the practice in the time that it takes to make one home visit. So please help us to help you and our other patients by visiting the surgery whenever possible.

We want to see patients as efficiently as possible. And it is helpful if you are able to attend the surgery because your GP will have access to all your medical records, including those held on computer and there are also better facilities for examining and treating patients at the Surgery.

Babies and small children should be brought to the surgery where we will do our best to see them promptly. If the Reception staff are made aware that your child is particularly unwell, they will do everything they can to see that you are not kept waiting unnecessarily to see the doctor.

Transport/social problems -We cannot undertake home visits for reasons of convenience or lack of transport. We will be happy to provide you with details of local taxi firms (**Halesworth Private Hire, Ginge Rogers 01986 874028, Rodney Fosdike Ltd. 01986 872829, Neal's Private Hire 01502 575888, R. J's Private Hire 07917 081391**) or the **Halesworth Volunteers car service (01986 874290)** (*a small fee will be charged*). From experience, we are aware that relatives, neighbours or friends are often willing to help out. Our responsibility to you is to resolve the medical problem you have; your responsibility is to take all the reasonable steps you are able to, to enable us to do that.

Please request visits before **10am** whenever possible as this allows the Doctor to plan their day accordingly. Late requests often lead to disruption of the appointment system and excessive waiting times for others.

A doctor will call you back on most occasions to assess your problem. This is to enable the doctor to prioritise visits.

It may be that your problem can be dealt with by telephone advice, or that it would be more appropriate to send a nurse, or indeed arrange a hospital attendance. It also prepares the doctor to collect some information required as necessary for the visit.

He/she may ask you to come to the surgery, where you will be seen as soon as possible.

The doctors would like to stress that **NO** patient in definite need of a home visit will be refused

In the past, GPs were able to do routine follow up home visits. Sadly, pressures of time and more patients needing attention means this is usually no longer possible.

You can also get non urgent medical advice from the 111 service available 24/7 or your local pharmacist.

**Some problems such as severe chest pains or shortness of breath are medical emergencies and you will be advised to dial 999.**

# Visiting Guide at a Glance

Request for medical care made by patients (usually by telephone)  
to GP or other clinician and backed by appropriate protocols

