

PHARMACY FIRST : IMPETIGO

CLINICAL IDENTIFICATION

Quick recognition prompts



- Localised red sores or blisters that rupture and form honey-coloured crusts.
- Commonly affects the face (around the nose and mouth) or other exposed areas.
- Usually mild and localised in presentation.

Gateway points should be checked before treatment decisions are made.

CHECK GATEWAY CRITERIA

Confirm suitability for the Pharmacy First pathway before proceeding.

- ✓ Patient aged 1 year or over
- ✓ Likely localised non-bullous impetigo
- ✓ Patient systemically well

Gateway points should be checked before treatment decisions are made.

CONSULTATION & MANAGEMENT

In the consultation room:

- ✓ Widespread or severe infection
- ✓ Systemically unwell patient
- ✓ Bullous impetigo suspected
- ✓ Recurrent infection or not responding to treatment
- ✓ Patient outside service eligibility criteria

SERVICE REMINDER

Pharmacy First consultations may result in:

- ✓ Treatment supplied
- ✓ Self-care advice and safety-netting

If self-care is agreed, record the consultation and outcome as part of the Pharmacy First service.

WHAT PHARMACIES SHOULD DO

- ✓ Use the current **Pharmacy First** impetigo pathway (from 1 October 2025)
- ✓ Check **gateway** criteria before proceeding to consultation
- ✓ Follow exclusions, red flags and escalation guidance

CORE MESSAGE

CHECK GATEWAY FIRST, THEN ASSESS AND MANAGE

GOVERNANCE REMINDER



CHECK GATEWAY FIRST, THEN ASSESS AND MANAGE

NHS England PGDs and clinical pathways remain the definitive requirements for clinical decision-making and claiming. Teams should ensure they are working in line with the current pathway and local governance requirements.