

Paracetamol and Ibuprofen

Do you really need a prescription for over-the-counter medicines like paracetamol and ibuprofen?

In Northern Ireland we spend more than £8 million every year on medicines which can easily be bought in local pharmacies and other retail outlets.

This could pay for;



2500

More hip replacement operations

500

More treatments for breast cancer

250

More community nurses

Cost of a box of paracetamol (approx.)

£0.50

Total cost to the health service of a box of paracetamol from your GP ***on prescription***

£35.00

(Includes approx. costs of the medicine, processing the prescription and family doctor time)



When required for short-term minor illnesses, it is better for the health service if you buy these medicines without a prescription.

Talk to your local pharmacist if you need some advice. You don't need an appointment!



Please help us to make the best use of our health service.