




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	<u>More</u> hip replacement operations
	500	<u>More</u> treatments for breast cancer
	250	<u>More</u> 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
<small>(Includes approx. costs of the medicine, processing the prescription and family doctor time)</small>	



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.

