healthwatch
Southwark

Do you know…?

How to register with a GP…

How do I find a GP?

You can use NHS Choices to find GP services near you – all you need is your postcode - http://www.nhs.uk/Service-Search. Here you can see ratings of GPs, and how far away they are from you.

However, bear in mind that you might not be in the catchment area of all these GPs.

What is a catchment area?

A catchment area is a specific location that is covered by the GP to ensure they are not taking on too many patients

- Some GPs have opted into a scheme where they can accept patients that live outside the catchment area, which gives people more choice about which GP to register with e.g. one with good ratings, one nearer to work etc.
- To find out if you are in the catchment area, or if a GP has opted into the scheme described above, you will need to ring the GP to find out

Why can't I register with the GP I want?

- You may live outside of their catchment area
- They may have too many patients and so are not taking on any more
- A GP must give a reason for refusing you

What do I need to register?

- To register with a GP you need to complete a form. This can either be downloaded from the GP's website or collected from the practice.
- Anyone who is in the UK may receive care provided by a GP. There is no set time that you must have been in the UK to be eligible. This includes asylum seekers and refugees, overseas visitors, students, people on work visas and those who are homeless.
  Practices may ask for proof of ID or proof of residence but they are not obliged to do so.

What is a Healthcheck appointment?

- Some GPs invite new patients to a health check appointment. These should be carried within six months.
- A practice nurse will ask you about personal or family medical history and ensure that any tests or checks that you need are up to date.

How & when should I register as a temporary patient in Southwark?

- If you are visiting Southwark for more than 24 hours but less than 3 months, you can apply to a Southwark GP as a temporary patient.
- The application form can be downloaded here http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/AboutNHSservices/Documents/Doctors/GMS3.pdf or collected from the practice

If you have any problems when registering with a GP, then call Healthwatch Southwark, using the details below!