

Cookies

We use cookies on our website to make your experience as easy and simple as possible.

Cookies are small data files that we place on your computer. They improve your experience by:

- remembering settings and information (like the names of health or social care services you've searched for) so you don't have to keep re-entering them.
- measuring how you use the website so we can make sure it meets your needs.

Cookies **do not** identify you personally.

Types of cookies and how we use them

First party cookies

First party cookies are our own. We control them and use them to provide information about the way you use our website.

Page style

At the top of every page, there is an option to change the page style to help people view the site more easily. This gives our site better web accessibility. The text size cookie remembers the user's chosen settings.

Text size

At the top of every page, there is an option to change the size of the text on the website. This gives our site better web accessibility. The page style cookie remembers the user's page style settings.

Has_js

Some parts of our website use javascript - a web language - to display content. If your web browser has javascript disabled, it helps us to know so that we can display the page to you in another way. This cookie allows our website to know if you have javascript enabled or not.

healthwatch_cookiecontrol

This maintains the open/closed state of the "Cookie Control" dialog.

Third party cookies

Third party cookies are set by other websites. We use their online tools to make our website work better for you.

lang

This is set by the Twitter widget and simply stores a language code.

Measuring website usage through Google analytics

We use Google Analytics to view statistics on the way you use our website. We can check:

- how many people have visited our website and what content they look at.
- how many times documents have been downloaded.
- what people are looking for on our website.

We use the following third party cookies set by Google Analytics.

_ga

Used to distinguish users and expires after two years.

_gid

Used to distinguish users and expires after 24 hours.

_gat

Used to throttle request rate and expires after one minute.

For more information, please read Google's Privacy Policy at www.google.com/policies/privacy/

Managing the cookies on your computer

You can restrict or block cookies set by our website and others by changing the settings in your browser. Doing this however may impact the way our website works for you in the future.

Visit the About Cookies website at <http://www.aboutcookies.org.uk/> to find out more about restricting or blocking cookies in different browsers.

You can also learn more about cookies at [www.gov.uk/support/cookies on the DirectGov](http://www.gov.uk/support/cookies-on-the-DirectGov-website) website.