

Transfer of prescriptions from private to NHS

When a patient undergoes private specialist treatment, the private consultant may prescribe medication. The private consultant may request the GP to issue an NHS prescription for the medication so the patient will not have to pay for it privately. Alternatively, the patient may request the GP to transfer the private request to an NHS FP10 prescription.

If a GP receives a letter from a private consultation advising/suggesting a course of action, then it may be appropriate for an initial FP10 prescription and ongoing treatment to be issued if the GP agrees with the advice. The prescriber takes clinical responsibility for monitoring so the GP must ensure that they are able to accept this responsibility.

However, there may be occasions when the GP is requested by a private consultant to prescribe medication they would not usually prescribe:

- **Specialist medication:** If the medication is specialist in nature and is not a routine drug for GP prescribing, it is for the individual GP to decide whether to accept clinical responsibility for the prescribing and monitoring.
- **Non-formulary:** If the medication is not part of the local joint prescribing formulary, it is not recommended to be transferred onto NHS, however, the GP may wish to offer the patient a clinically suitable formulary alternative.
- **Unlicensed or off-label:** There is greater clinical responsibility on the GP prescribing unlicensed or off-label treatment. Please refer to the General Medical Council advice regarding the prescribing of unlicensed medicines prior to considering the transfer of prescriptions from private to NHS.
- **Red/Grey list or blacklisted:** Drugs that are included in these categories are considered less suitable for prescribing.

In addition if the GP does not feel that the medication is clinically appropriate, they do not agree with the treatment plan, or they do not have access to full written details from the private clinician, then it would be reasonable for the GP to decline to prescribe.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Thurrock CCG and Basildon and Brentwood CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the local joint formulary and prescribing guidance, or relevant Medicines Management agreement.

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