

DRAFT CONSULTATION - Summary guidance for prescribers - patients wishing to pay for additional private care

Please note that this is a draft document for consultation. If you wish to feedback please follow the link and complete the Microsoft Form by 21st February 2025 - <https://forms.office.com/e/ZVWnCha4mF>

Prescribing on the NHS after a private consultation

An NHS prescription may be appropriately only if:

- the GP agrees with the advice and it is within their competence to prescribe the item,
- the private provider is CQC registered and the GP is satisfied of the professional credentials of the private clinician,
- the medicine to be prescribed is available on the NHS (i.e. not NHS blacklisted) and is commissioned by the ICB,
- the private episode of care is completed.

Accepting shared care referrals from private clinicians

- The decision of whether to accept a shared care agreement lies with the NHS prescriber.
- However, The British Medical Association does not recommend Shared Care with private providers due to the general NHS constitution principle of keeping as clear a separation as possible between private and NHS care.
- The NHS prescriber will have full medicolegal responsibility for prescribing any item commenced by a private prescriber. This is because private and NHS healthcare **must** be delivered as separate episodes of care to comply with Department of Health guidance and the NHS constitution.
- For further guidance NHS prescribers should consult the advice of the [Regional Drug and Therapeutic Centre](#) and [All Wales Medicines Strategy Group guide to prescribing dilemmas](#).

Medicines not suitable for primary care supply on the NHS following a private consultation/referral

The NHS Healthcare professional should:

- inform the patient as soon as practicably possible,
- obtain a full communication from the private consultant and complete a referral to an appropriate NHS specialist for the patient to receive appropriate NHS care.

Patients have the choice of switching from private care to NHS care at any time during their treatment.

Private Prescriptions for NHS Patients

GPs may not issue private prescriptions alongside or as an alternative to NHS prescriptions. However, GPs may write private prescriptions for patients for the following:

- Blacklisted items found in part XVIII A of the NHS Drug Tariff.
- Malaria prophylaxis.
- Travel vaccinations that are not covered by NHS public health policy.
- SLS items prescribed outside of their specified criteria as defined by General Medical Services Contracts Regulations 2004.