

WHAT HAPPENS IF I SEE A CONSULTANT PRIVATELY?

We understand that some patients may opt to have some or all of their treatment privately. To help you with this the following guidance explains how the NHS (and your Practice) work with Private providers of care.

What do I need to do?

Your GP can write you a referral letter if there is a clinical reason to do so. This will usually be available to you 5 working days after your GP consultation. We would suggest that you only make a private appointment once you have received this letter.

Seeing a Private Consultant. What happens if I need a test or procedure?

If the private consultant thinks that you need any tests they are responsible for:

- Arranging the tests and any the provision of any medication you may need prior to the test, as well as explaining how and when you will receive a date for the test, and what to do if the date is not suitable for you.
- Giving you your results and explaining what they mean.

Please do not contact the practice to arrange or discuss the results of tests organised by other specialists. It is the private Consultant's responsibility to discuss this with you, and the practice may not have access to the results, or be in a position to interpret them.

What happens if I need new medication?

The private consultant may suggest prescribing new medicines for you or might want to make changes to medication you are already taking. The private consultant who you see is responsible for providing you with your first prescription.

Private consultants may suggest medications to patients which wouldn't normally be prescribed by NHS GPs. If this is the case, you will need to continue to receive them from the consultant. Please contact them directly to organise this.

In certain circumstances your GP may be able to prescribe future prescriptions if the suggested treatment is within NHS prescribing guidelines. Prior to this, your private consultant will need to provide their assessment of your condition and the treatment they have recommended. For completeness this does need to include the precise details of the prescription; what it is being used to treat; how long the treatment is intended for; and what monitoring or follow up is required.

If the treatment, medication and or monitoring falls outside of NHS guidelines or services it will need to be provided via your private healthcare team.

Please note: If you take a private prescription to any NHS Pharmacy you will have to pay the actual cost of the medication as opposed to the NHS standard prescription charge.

Weeping Cross Practice Prescribing Policy

NHS England provides clear regulations regarding when and how we prescribe medication to you.

This guidance means that our Clinical Team may not be able to issue you a prescription (following a private consultation) for the following reasons.

- The Clinical Team considers there is not a clear clinical indication for the prescription, and that in the same circumstances an NHS patient would not be offered treatment.
- If a new or experimental treatment is recommended or medication which is outside of its licensed indication or outside of existing guidance or is recommended for specialist prescribing only.
- If the medication is not usually available or prescribed within the NHS
- If the medication is of a specialised nature and requires ongoing monitoring. This includes medication that can be prescribed via the NHS if a Shared Care Agreement has been established. If no Shared Care Agreement is already in place with a NHS provider, we are unable to safely prescribe and or monitor medication. This would include, but is not limited to:

Disease Modifying Drugs, In vitro fertilisation (IVF) associated medications, Hormonal medications, Melatonin and medications needed to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

If we are unable to issue a NHS prescription, the consultant you see will need to issue you with a private prescription. In this situation, we would recommend that you investigate the cost of the medication recommended and any associated monitoring that may be required.

What happens if I need to transfer my care back to the NHS?

Please ask your Consultant to facilitate this. If for any reason this is not possible, please ask your consultant to send details of your treatment to the Practice and make an appointment with a GP to discuss possible options.