

## IVY GROVE SURGERY PRIVATE PROVIDER DISCLAIMER DOCUMENT

### Dear Patient

We respect the universal right of any patient to choose a private provider, including those under the 'Right to Choose' pathway for ADHD referrals, however, it is a priority to ensure transparency in providing you with important information regarding the scope of services covered under such an arrangement.

We have a detailed information page on our website at <http://ivy.gs/private-providers> that covers the situation regarding requests following attendance at a private provider, specifically requests for investigations and medications, including shared care medications and kindly ask that you familiarise yourself with the contents of our information page before embarking upon a private provider referral.

The important points to note are the following:

**INVESTIGATIONS:** NHS GPs are not obliged to perform or request any tests that are required following attendance at a private provider. This is especially so, if such a test falls outside ordinary care usually provided by the GP and where the interpretation of the result of such test would fall outside the GPs knowledge, skills and competence.

Such tests can be requested and actioned by the private provider themselves. When considering the services of a private provider, patients are advised to purchase or negotiate a package that includes investigations, including any necessary post-operative investigations, as part of their private care.

**MEDICATIONS:** Again, NHS GPs are not obliged to prescribe medications that are required as a result of a patient attending a private provider, nor are they required to convert privately issued prescriptions to an NHS GP issued one.

However, where such requested medications are within the scope of ordinary care from a GP and where we would normally issue such medications, we will consider such requests on an individual basis and if agreed, prescriptions will be processed in line with our non-urgent medication process and timescale. It must be emphasised, if we choose to write an NHS script, it is processed as non-urgent. If your private provider indicates that you need your medication urgently, in line with usual hospital processes, they must supply it themselves.

**SHARED CARE MEDICATIONS:** Shared care is a process whereby responsibility for a patient's medication is shared between a GP and consultant. In such a situation, the consultant will assess a patient's suitability for the medication, perform any necessary baseline investigations and counsel the patient fully on the medication, before prescribing the medication and adjusting the dose until the patient is stable.

Once the patient is stable, the consultant then writes to the GP to ask them to consider shared care. If the GP accepts, they then take over the prescribing and monitoring of the patient, notifying the consultant should any problems arise. The patient must remain under the care of the consultant. For shared care to be valid, there must also be a written agreement on the duties and responsibilities of each party.

The whole process of shared care is to facilitate appropriate clinical oversight and to maintain patient safety, all in the patient's best interests.

Please note, contrary to anything you may be told, GPs are under no professional or contractual obligation to enter into shared care arrangements with any provider, NHS, private or otherwise. Shared care is entirely

voluntary for GPs and therefore we reserve the right to decline any request for shared care, without reason.

At the current time, **we do not participate in shared care arrangements with any private provider.**

We do not participate in any shared care arrangements with any provider, NHS or private, if **ANY** of the following conditions apply (most of these describe situations that are, by definition, not shared care):

- There is no written shared care agreement
- There is a shared care agreement, but it does not match the equivalent NHS shared care agreement for the same cohort of patients
- The private provider is an assessment or diagnosis only service, that is, it does not prescribe medication at all
- The private provider has not completed an appropriate assessment of patient's suitability for the medication, performed baseline investigations or provided counselling for the medication (for example, information on side effects, interactions)
- The private provider has not initiated the patient on medication and/or has not adjusted dosage accordingly and/or has not stabilised the patient on the medication
- The private provider has discharged or will discharge the patient back to sole GP care
- The medication being recommended is one that falls outside the GP's knowledge, experience or competence to prescribe
- The private provider is recommending use of medication that falls outside its licensed indications (for instance, it is being used for a different age group or different reason from the manufacturer's recommendations)

The reason why we do not consider prescribing medication in any of the above situations is that there is no proper specialist oversight and consequently patient safety is potentially at risk. Whilst it may seem convenient (and cheaper) to 'get a prescription from the GP', we will not accept any arrangement that has the potential to put a patient at risk.

We hope the above goes some way to explaining the situation regarding requests from private providers.

Please sign and return this slip before referral. If we do not receive it, we cannot proceed with your referral.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRIVATE PROVIDER DISCLAIMER DOCUMENT**

Name of patient being referred:

Date of birth:

I, ....., confirm that I have read, understood, and agree to comply with the above regarding referral to a private provider

Signature .....

Relationship to patient .....

Date .....