WATLING MEDICAL CENTRE

Requests for NHS Prescriptions Following Private GP or Specialist Consultations Policy

Watling Medical Centre recognises that patients may seek advice or treatment from private healthcare providers. However, the responsibility for prescribing on the NHS remains with the NHS clinician issuing the prescription.

The clinician must ensure that any medication prescribed is clinically appropriate, safe, and based on an assessment and decision made by an appropriate clinician within the NHS care setting.

Acute / One-Off Medication Requests

Requests for acute or one-off prescriptions recommended by a private GP or specialist will not routinely be accepted without further assessment.

The reason for this is that:

● The prescribing decision has not been made by a Watling Medical Centre clinician.

● The practice has not assessed the patient or considered the risks, benefits, and suitability of the medication.

● Prescribing without appropriate clinical involvement may place the practice and prescribing clinician in a difficult medico-legal position should the patient experience adverse effects or complications.

Medication Intended for Long-Term NHS Prescribing

Where a private specialist recommends a medication that is expected to become part of the patient's ongoing NHS treatment:

● The request should be reviewed by an appropriate Watling Medical Centre clinician.

● If the clinician is satisfied that the medication is appropriate, safe, and clinically indicated, the initial prescription may be issued as an NHS acute prescription.

The medication needs to be on the local treatment pathway, and an NHS approved alternative may need to be issued.

● Following review and agreement, the medication may then be added to the patient's repeat medication list in line with usual practice procedures.

Specialist-Initiated Treatments which need ongoing prescribing

Before accepting responsibility for ongoing prescribing, the practice should ensure:

● Adequate clinical information is available from the specialist.

● The indication, dose, monitoring requirements, and duration of treatment are clear.

● The prescribing clinician is satisfied that they can safely take over prescribing responsibility. All prescribing decisions remain the responsibility of the clinician issuing the prescription. Watling Medical Centre clinicians are not obliged to prescribe medication solely because it has been recommended by a private Doctor .

Watling Medical Centre
4/8/26