

Statement on ADHD prescribing/shared care

To establish a clear protocol for the review and acceptance/rejection of Shared Care Agreements (including Right To Choose on the NHS) Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), ensuring adherence to BMA guidelines and NHS duty of care principles.

Scope

This protocol applies to all NHS and non-NHS shared care agreement (including Right To Choose on the NHS) requests for ADHD medications received by the GP practice.

Practice position

If a non-NHS Right to Choose or private provider suggests that a patient commence or be prescribed medication, then they will request that the practice prescribe the medication for the patient. This will usually be in the form of a written document called a Shared Care Agreement which will be sent to the practice. If the provider is a non-NHS provider Right to Choose or a private provider then currently, the practice is not able to enter into a Shared Care Agreement. Therefore, if the patient chooses to go down this route for assessment and if treatment is recommended, then the patient must continue to receive this from the non-NHS Right to Choose provider or fund this privately. In addition, any monitoring and tests required whilst on medication will also need to be funded privately and will not be performed at the practice.

Rationale for refusing non-NHS providers, Right to Choose or private providers

The practice is committed to providing comprehensive and equitable healthcare to all our patients. Our decision to implement this policy and prescribing practices stems from a conscientious effort to align with the latest guidance. Therefore, in accordance with guidance (listed below), the practice has made the decision to no longer accept Shared Care Agreements outside of the local NHS system. This adjustment ensures that all patients receive consistent and standardised care, regardless of their route to diagnosis or treatment.

It is crucial to recognise that the management of many conditions, particularly through medication, necessitates regular monitoring and a specialist oversight. While we remain dedicated to delivering high-quality care to our patients, our resources and capabilities may not extend to providing the specialised monitoring required for patients diagnosed and treated through non-NHS providers.

British Medical Association Guidelines

The British Medical Association's guidance on shared care agreements, states that GPs may decline participation in Shared Care Agreements if they consider it inappropriate or if it falls outside their contractual obligations. We are not contractually obligated to accept Shared Care Agreements from non-NHS providers (Right to Choose / private) and also have the right to reject Shared Care Agreements from NHS providers.

NHS Duty of Care

The NHS's duty of care is to provide the best possible care to patients. Several non-NHS providers do not appear to follow NHS guidelines with regards to the management of patients requiring specialist medication. This includes the non-NHS provider not following the same standards of care for patient safety or providing the same quality of care that a patient would receive on the NHS.

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