

Diagnosis and Treatment Policy – NHS Medication and Treatment based on Private provider recommendations

- At Chevin Medical Practice we are supportive of patients seeking a diagnosis and receiving care via private providers. We are happy to make referrals within the NHS and advise on referral to the private sector (whether self-funded or via a NHS Right-to-Choose process) for assessment and treatment if desired.
- Due to high demand and long waiting lists for many conditions, referrals can take a significant amount of time to reach a point of diagnosis and further time to get to a point of initiating medication (if appropriate).
- With reference to specialist medications on the NHS, recommended by private providers, we can enter into shared care agreements with recognised, CQC-registered and CQC-certified UK based clinics both in the Private sector and through the NHS. Shared care involves collaboration between our practice and the specialist service, ensuring appropriate management of ongoing treatment, medication, and monitoring. We will endeavour to continue medication supply on an NHS prescription, provided the following criteria are met:
 - The medication must be suitable for prescribing within Primary Care and our clinicians must be competent to prescribe it safely.
 - Some specialist medications require increased input from the specialist, and these must be initiated and stabilised by a CQC-registered and CQC-certified specialist service. Clear instructions on ongoing treatment and monitoring must be provided.
 - NHS treatment will only be considered if it is recommended within its licensed dose, form and indication. This is for patient safety and to remain within our prescribing competencies.
- Any changes to specialist medications, including adjustments to form, strength or dosage, can only be made with written guidance from a CQC-registered and CQC-certified specialist service. This is in the interest of patient safety.
- If a private, CQC-registered and CQC-certified specialist service ceases to operate or discharges their responsibility for a patient's shared care, we reserve the right to suspend NHS prescriptions until a suitable alternative CQC-registered and CQC-certified service can take over. This may involve a further referral to another private or NHS service, which could result in a delay or break in prescriptions.
- If the medication requires ongoing reviews via the specialist, patients will need to remain under the care of a CQC-registered and CQC-certified specialist service for an annual review to monitor the effects of medication and to assess the on-going need for the treatment. We will not be able to continue NHS prescriptions without that arrangement in place including correspondence from those services summarising those reviews, for safety reasons.
- Patients arriving in the UK from abroad, having received assessment and specialist treatment initiated outside the UK will be referred to a UK based service for review. We may be able to provide bridging prescriptions pending an assessment in a UK clinic, but this would be at the discretion of the prescribing clinician and dependant on availability of the medication. If the treatment falls outside normal UK practice, advice will be sought from a CQC-registered and CQC-certified specialist service before prescribing any medication and that may incur delay.
- We are unable to provide bridging prescriptions for patients who have initiated treatment themselves, or through non-CQC regulated clinics, as this poses safety concerns. We will provide monitoring (pulse, blood pressure, weight etc) but cannot provide advice on dosing. We may offer to refer you to a CQC-registered and CQC-certified specialist service.