



## **SHARED CARE PRESCRIBING POLICY**

### **NHS Shared Care Agreements Definition**

Shared care is an agreement between primary care and specialist services to allow GPs to prescribe and monitor certain specialist medications once treatment has been stabilised.

Participation in shared care requires agreement from the GP, specialist, and patient. The specialist remains responsible for diagnosis, treatment initiation, and ongoing specialist review, and must provide clear guidance and timely support to the GP.

The GP will only accept shared care where they are satisfied that:

- They have sufficient clinical information to prescribe safely
- They are competent to undertake the prescribing and monitoring required
- Appropriate specialist support and follow-up are available

Patients are expected to attend monitoring appointments, request prescriptions in good time, and report any concerns or side effects.

In many cases, shared care can be safely implemented. However:

The practice is unable to accept shared care as there is no locally commissioned pathway or resourced service to support the safe prescribing, monitoring, and specialist oversight required.

The practice may also decline or withdraw from shared care where it is not clinically appropriate or where safe arrangements cannot be maintained.

### **Shared Care with Private Providers**

We recognise that patients may access private healthcare for a range of reasons. However, the practice does not routinely enter into shared care agreements with private providers.

This means we will not usually take over prescribing or monitoring of specialist medications initiated privately. Responsibility remains with the initiating clinician unless care is formally transferred to an NHS service and a standard shared care arrangement is agreed.

## **Principles**

This policy is applied consistently to all patients and is based on:

- Patient safety
- Clinical competence
- Availability of appropriate specialist support and governance

Guidance from organisations such as the General Medical Council and British Medical Association underpins this approach.