



Northlands Practice Shared Care Policy

Purpose of the policy

Additional providers of healthcare are increasingly common. This policy intends to set out clearly for patients and providers, the responsibilities that Northlands Surgery expects of patients, providers and the GP surgery. In addition, this policy will clearly highlight the requirements for 'Shared Care' medications to be prescribed and when the surgery are able to enter such agreements.

Shared Care Medications / Arrangements

What is shared care?

Shared care is a term used within the NHS to describe the situation where a specialist doctor wishes to pass some of the patient's care, such as prescription of medication, over to their general practitioner (GP). This is something that can be requested but the guidance for all medications is that this may only be done if the GP agrees. The GP will need to consider a number of factors to decide if this is **safe** arrangement.

In shared care arrangements (SCAs) the prescribing Consultant or specialist team remain responsible for parts of the patient's care. These should be clearly defined in the SCA and usually include any changes to the medication regime, or any complications related to the medication. The presence of a specialist is essential for the GP to operate **safely** within 'shared care'. Shared care is not 'shared' unless it is shared by the GP with someone else. Without this then GPs may be deemed to operating outside of Good Medical Practice. This is particularly pertinent with regards to private medications that fall within the 'Amber – shared care' category.

See here for a full list of all medications that require SCAs:

[Shared Care Agreements - Medicines \(bswtogether.org.uk\)](https://www.bswtogether.org.uk)

It is also important to remember that formal shared care arrangements are voluntary on the part of the GP and the GP should be mindful of their own clinical competence and workload capacity when considering agreeing to such an arrangement. Workload requested for an individual patients will need to be considered in balance with the reasonable needs of the practice population and whether further workload can be absorbed by the practice team safely.

Northlands Surgery will consider the following points and will **only** take on prescribing from any **NHS provider** if the practice Shared Care Agreement Panel (SCARP)* is satisfied that all requirements can be met.

1. The specialist has sought agreement of the GP and made clear the nature and responsibilities of each party of the shared care arrangement before transferring any care or prescribing and you feel assured by what you have seen



2. Do you feel that the prescribing and associated knowledge required falls within the scope of your team's professional competence
3. Do you feel this falls within your team's workload capacity?
4. Are there adequate resources and sufficient capacity for the work of managing safe systems for monitoring and prescribing for this medication in your practice?
5. For NHS providers, are they locally commissioned or have they been approved by your ICB as working in line with UK best practice and local prescribing guidelines/shared care protocols?

Private Shared Care Arrangements

Northlands Surgery currently agrees to take on long-term prescribing of medications that fall under the 'Green' traffic light status or 'Amber' (that have been initiated by the private team and stabilised but don't require shared care) but we retain the right to refuse if we don't have sufficient expertise or resources to manage the medication.

Northlands Surgery's SCARP will consider approval for entering into shared care agreements for medication that require this with private providers **only** if the requirements listed above in points 1 to 5 are met **and** the additional requirements for private providers listed below are met.

1. For private providers are you satisfied that the provider is appropriately accredited, practicing in line with UK best practice and will prescribe and monitor patients in line with locally agreed pathways apply?
2. For those under private providers – Has there been an agreement with the patient that prescribing will cease, if the patient for whatever reason, is unable to continue follow up with a private provider?

Northlands Surgery will not prescribe 'Red' medications requested or initiated by private providers at all.

*SCARP consists of Practice Prescribing Lead GP, the patient's registered GP, Northlands Clinical Pharmacy team

References

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices/managingworkload/general-practice-responsibility-in-responding-to-private-healthcare>
<https://www.wessexlmcs.com/guidance/understanding-shared-care-nhs-right-tochoose-and-private-providers/> <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices/communication-withpatients/duty-of-care-when-test-results-and-drugs-are-ordered-by-secondary-care>
<https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/area-prescribing-committee/shared-careagreement/>
<https://bswformulary.nhs.uk/> <https://www.gmc-uk.org/professional-standards/professional-standards-fordoctors/good-medical-practice>
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/patientsafety/wpcontent/uploads/sites/32/2016/03/discharge-standards-march-16.pdf>