Farnham Dene Medical Practice

Private Prescription Policy

1. Purpose
This policy sets out the approach of Farnham Dene Medical Practice to handling private prescriptions presented by patients and the circumstances in which medicines may be transferred to NHS prescribing.
It ensures safe, consistent, and legally compliant prescribing in line with NHS regulations and good clinical practice.

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2. Converting a Private Prescription to an NHS Prescription
The practice is unable to convert a private prescription into an NHS prescription.
If a patient has been issued a private prescription (for example, from a private GP or private specialist), they must obtain and pay for the medication **privately** using that prescription.
The NHS cannot be used to dispense a medicine that was issued privately.

3. Requesting Ongoing Prescribing on the NHS
If a patient wishes the practice to take over prescribing of a medication that was initiated privately—**for future prescriptions only**—the following requirements apply:
3.1 Consultant/Specialist Communication Required
The practice must receive a **written letter or formal clinic correspondence** from the initiating consultant or specialist confirming:

- The patient has been **started on a long-term medication**.
- The **indication** for the treatment.
- That the specialist requests or recommends that the **GP continues prescribing**.
- Any monitoring requirements or safety parameters.
- Treatment plan, duration, and follow-up arrangements.

The practice cannot accept prescriptions, screenshots, or verbal messages as evidence.

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4. Clinical and Safety Requirements
Once appropriate documentation has been received:

- The medication will be reviewed by a GP or prescribing clinician to ensure it is **clinically appropriate, safe**, and **within the scope of primary care prescribing**.
- The practice may decline ongoing NHS prescribing if:
    - The medication is **outside local or national prescribing guidelines**.
    - The medication requires **specialist monitoring** not available in primary care.
    - There is **insufficient specialist information** to ensure safe prescribing.

Patients will be informed if prescribing cannot be taken over and advised to continue obtaining the medication privately.

5. Patient Responsibilities
For the practice to continue prescribing on the NHS, patients must:

- **Attend regular review appointments** as instructed by the GP or specialist.
- Comply with any **monitoring requirements** (e.g., blood tests, blood pressure checks).

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- Keep the practice informed of any **changes in care**, dose alterations, or new specialist advice. This must be provided in writing.

Failure to attend reviews or comply with monitoring requirements may result in **NHS prescribing being paused or stopped** for safety reasons.

6. Temporary or One-off Private Prescriptions
If a private clinician issues a **one-off prescription** (e.g., short-term treatment), the practice will not provide the medicine on the NHS unless:

- The GP has independently assessed the patient,
- The medication is clinically appropriate, and
- It would ordinarily be prescribed in primary care.

Patients may be advised to continue privately for one-off or short-course treatment.

7. **Shared Care Agreements**

Patients must comply with the terms of their shared care agreement. For further information on this subject please visit the Clinics and Services page of our website and ADHD tab.

8. Changes to the Practice Policy
The practice reserves the right to alter this policy in line with local or national guidelines or as advised by regulatory bodies.