Great Western Medical Practice- Private Work Policy

It is recognised there is an increasing number of patients accessing private healthcare.

This document outlines the practice policy regarding handling of private work, including referrals to and from the private sector, as well as correspondence following consultations in the private sector.

The aim is to ensure clarity and consistency in managing private sector involvement while maintaining fair and equal use of NHS services across patient population in alignment with NHS Grampian guidance.

The practice acknowledges using the private sector can free up NHS resources.

The following policy has been agreed by management and staff at the practice, adhering to NHS Grampian guidance

Private referrals

Certain private services permit self-referral, while others may require a clinician’s referral. If you are using health insurance, please confirm the requirements with your insurance provider.

Private referrals can be arranged at the patients request following a consultation. The practice cannot issue private referrals for conditions that have not been discussed with a clinician.

The practice will remain impartial and cannot provide recommendations for private providers; patients are responsible for specifying the referral destination.

There will be no charge for private referrals.

Patient requesting private referral will be made aware of this policy and accepting of its terms.

Following private consultation

To ensure your NHS records remain accurate, we would encourage all private providers to generate a full clinical report which can be submitted to the practice electronically via [gram.greatwesternclinical@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.greatwesternclinical@nhs.scot) . Upon receipt of this report we will update your NHS records.

For any urgent matters requiring NHS input, the private provider must conduct a telephone handover with our on-call duty doctor. All other communications will be managed routinely.

Recommendations following private consultations.

Following your private consultation, recommendations for further investigations such as blood tests, scans or referral, may be made. It is expected that these recommendations are pursued within the private sector.

Reports from private consultations will be added to your NHS GP records. The practice does not routinely act on recommendations from private consultations. If you wish to transition your care to the NHS, you will need to book an appointment with a clinician.

Private Prescriptions

NHS Grampian Guidance states:

* ‘NHS clinicians are not obligated to accept the recommendations (and therefore assume clinical responsibility) made to prescribe treatment by private practitioners (at the requested of the prescriber or patient).
* ‘To assess your clinical need for the treatment including the reasons for the proposed medication, your GP must have received a full clinical report from the private practitioner ‘
* ‘Where a request is made for an acute episode of care, which has been assessed by a private provider, it should be expected that all care and associated monitoring will be undertaken by the assessing clinician / service. NHS prescribing should not be undertaken.’

Acute prescriptions

* The practice is unable to take responsibility for acute prescriptions requests from the private sector (for example, antibiotics for an infection).

Repeat / Long-term prescriptions

* The practice may agree to take over clinical reasonability and provide NHS prescriptions for long-term conditions if the following criteria are met:
  + The practice has received a full clinical report from the private provider.
  + The patient is established and stable on the medication for at least two months.
  + Any required monitoring, such as blood tests, has been completed with stable results.
  + The prescribing and recommendations adhere to NHS Grampian Guidelines and the Grampian Area Formulary

Discharge from Private hospital

* NHS Grampian States sufficient drugs should be provided by the hospital, usually for ‘minimum period of 7 days after discharge’.

Private Investigations

If an NHS consultation leads to a recommendation for imaging of further investigations and the patient chooses to have these performed privately, the practice will handle and action the results as it would for NHS investigations.

If a patient independently and without consultation, seeks private investigations or health screenings, it is expected that the results will be followed up and interpreted in the private sector.

Treatment Requirement Following Surgery or Treatment Overseas

NHS Grampian Guidance states ‘that while NHS Scotland will always continue to provide emergency care when necessary, it is expected that all routine pre and post-operative/treatment care should be part of the private package of care purchase by the patient. As such, NHS boards were not obligated to provide any pre or post-operative / treatment care’