Appendix B – Information for Patients

**NHS prescribing following private assessment or treatment in the private healthcare sector**

Your GP (family doctor), or other prescribers in the practice, can prescribe some medicines on the NHS on advice from a clinician in the private sector.

However, there are a number of circumstances when your GP may refuse the request or offer to prescribe an alternative medicine. Your GP may decide not to prescribe if:

1. A full diagnosis, with appropriate test results, has not been provided by the consultant in the private sector.
2. He or she feels the medicine is not clinically necessary.
3. The medication is an unlicensed medicine.
4. The medication is prescribed outside of its licensed indications.
5. The medication needs special monitoring and he or she feels they do not have the facilities or expertise to do this.
6. The use of a more cost-effective medicine has been agreed locally.
7. The private clinician is unknown to the practice and is unable or unwilling to provide confirmation of their clinical credentials.

If your GP is able to prescribe for you, please allow **at least** 10 *(amend as appropriate per practice policy)* full working days for prescriptions to be processed taking into account weekends and bank holidays. If your prescription is urgent, your private sector clinician should provide you with a prescription that you may have dispensed privately to ensure you receive timely treatment.

Further information is available on the NHS Choices website: ‘If I pay for private treatment, how will my NHS care be affected?’ <http://www.nhs.uk/chq/Pages/2572.aspx?CategoryID=96>

If you have further queries or would like to discuss your options, please speak with your GP or healthcare professional at your practice.

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**Please ensure that the Accessible Information Standard (AIS) is applied in communicating the above information to patients, when necessary**

See <https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/meeting-accessible-information-standard> and <https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/gps/gp-mythbusters/gp-mythbuster-20-making-information-accessible> for more information