Appendix C – Statement to Include in Referral Letters

It is suggested that the following statement is included in all referral letters whether to an NHS or private specialist. Practices may adapt this as appropriate.

NHS prescribing in primary care following a referral

Any recommendation for NHS prescribing in primary care should be in line with:

1. National guidance
2. Local guidance available from Surrey Heartlands Integrated Commissioning Board and on the Surrey Prescribing Advisory Database (PAD)[:](http://pad.res360.net/)  <https://surreyccg.res-systems.net/pad>
3. The Surrey Interface Prescribing Policy (Appendix to Service Level Agreements): <https://surreyccg.res-systems.net/PAD/Guidelines/Detail/6192>

NHS prescribers in primary care prescribe in line with locally agreed prescribing guidance and drug choices based on published evidence and cost effectiveness of equivalent preparations. Please refer to the Surrey Prescribing Advisory Database (PAD) which provides guidance and information about medicines use in Surrey. It can be accessed by healthcare professionals in primary and secondary care and by patients[:](http://pad.res360.net/) <https://surreyccg.res-systems.net/pad>

If the recommended medication does not follow national or local guidance, the NHS prescriber may not agree to prescribe (in which case prescribing remains with the specialist) or the GP may substitute a clinically appropriate alternative. The specialist should be aware of these possibilities when discussing proposed treatment with the patient.