

Dear Patient/Parents,

There is currently clear guidance and pathways for monitoring patients who have been diagnosed with ADHD and commenced on drugs by an NHS specialist. Doctors working within the NHS adhere to robust standards of care when making a diagnosis of ADHD and when prescribing drugs for ADHD. This enables GPs to sometimes take over the prescribing of ADHD drugs from the NHS specialist whilst maintaining the ongoing support from the specialist. The GP, specialist and patient all agree to follow a shared care protocol (SCP) which outlines a certain standard of care.

As GPs, we are unable to verify the governance processes around the diagnosis of ADHD or prescribing practices of private specialist clinics. As a result, it is not always safe for GPs to enter shared care prescribing of these drugs with private clinics and GPs are not obliged to do so. This may result in patients choosing to continue to pay privately for the drugs if they do not feel they can wait for their care to be transferred to an NHS specialist.

The doctors at Tyntesfield Medical Group may be able to enter into shared care prescribing with private specialists, provided the patient and specialist agree to follow an equivalent shared care protocol to our local NHS protocol. We have enclosed a flow chart and links to the local shared care protocols for patients to refer to and discuss with their private specialists. If the patient and specialist agree to adhere to the standard of care as specified below, it will ensure that private patients are offered a standard of ongoing monitoring which is not sub-standard to NHS patients.

This is an ongoing process and the patient and private specialist need to continue to adhere to the shared care protocol for as long as the Tyntesfield Medical Group doctors prescribe the ADHD drug, otherwise NHS prescriptions will need to stop in order to maintain patient safety. If NHS prescriptions need to stop with 1 months' notice, patients should either follow their specialist's plan for stopping their medication or seek ongoing private prescriptions. Patients should share this letter with their private ADHD specialist at the earliest opportunity to ensure they are able to adhere to it, ideally before any decisions regarding prescribing are made.

Yours Sincerely,

Tyntesfield Medical Group

Reference links:

The flow chart below summarises the process for entering into shared care prescribing with private specialists. Below are the links to the BNSSG adult and paediatric SCPs. For adults, the patient/specialist will need to select the appropriate drug and click on the SCP which is for 'GP practices not signed up for the ADHD LES'. For children, there is only one applicable SCP per drug.

Adult: [SCPs \(Remedy BNSSG ICB\)](#)

Paediatric: [SCPs \(Remedy BNSSG ICB\)](#)

