

Fairfield Medical practice – Information for patients considering private treatment

The following leaflet has been developed in response to the growing number of patients accessing care in the private sector either in the UK or abroad.

Points to consider:

- The GP surgery is not contracted nor obliged to provide private services outside of the GMS (general medical services) contract with NHS Highland.
- Your GP is not usually in a position to recommend private specialist.

Information about tests or procedure:

- If a private specialist decides a test (including blood tests) or procedure is required – **they are responsible for organising it, giving you the results and an explanation of what they mean.**
- It is your private specialist's responsibility to discuss and explain any results and to arrange any follow up. Please do not contact your GP to discuss results or follow up of your private specialist's tests or procedures.

New medicines

- Private specialists may recommend new medications. Your specialist should write to your GP about this. Your GP might be willing to continue prescribing the medication.
- Private specialists may recommend medication that would not normally be prescribed by NHS GPs. If this is the case, you will need to continue to receive it from the private sector and this will incur a cost, along with regular monitoring if required.

Transferring back to the NHS

- Transfer and arrangement of care back to the NHS must be done by the private specialist and should not be passed to the GP to do. The private specialist should arrange the handover of care to the relevant NHS specialty.

Please consider asking the following questions of your specialist:

- What are the risks?
- What are the benefits?
- What are the alternatives?
- What if I do nothing?
- What are the long term consequences and follow-up requirements for the procedure or treatment?

Please ensure that you have adequate information from your private specialist about the treatment you are considering before you commit to it.

The information above is from the links attached. Please refer to these documents for more information:

[General practice responsibility in responding to private healthcare \(bma.org.uk\)](https://www.bma.org.uk)

[Surgery abroad without NHS referral | NHS inform](#)

[BOMSS-Statement-on-Bariatric-Tourism-Jan-2023-v2.pdf](#)