

THE OLD COURTHOUSE SURGERY

Policy on Shared Care Agreements

Version:	Review date:	Edited by:	Approved by:	Comments:
1	1.11.2024	G. Rider	P.Desai/A.Farooqi	
	19/11/2025	G.Rider	P.Desai/A.Farooqi	

Purpose:

To establish a clear and consistent approach to handling shared care agreements within our practice, ensuring patient safety and maintaining the quality of care.

Scope:

This policy applies to all healthcare professionals and administrative staff within the practice.

Policy Statement:

Our practice has decided not to engage in any new shared care agreements from 1/11/2024. This decision is based on the following considerations:

1. Clinical Confidence:

- Our prescribers may not feel clinically confident in managing certain conditions under shared care arrangements. It is essential that all prescribing and monitoring are conducted by professionals with the necessary expertise.

2. Criteria for Shared Care:

- The medicine or condition may not fall within the criteria defining suitability for inclusion in a shared care arrangement.

3. Expertise and Skills:

- We may lack the necessary expertise and skills to take clinical responsibility for the prescribing and monitoring of certain medications.

4. Commissioning and Resources:

- The prescribing of certain medications has not been commissioned as a shared care enhanced service from our GP practice. We are unable to

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undertake un resourced or inappropriate work that is outside our contractual responsibility.

5. Governance and Quality Assurance:

- Shared care with private providers is not recommended due to governance and quality assurance implications, as well as the potential to promote health inequalities.

Procedure:

- Any requests for shared care agreements will be reviewed by the practice manager and clinical lead.
- Patients will be informed that their care will remain under the responsibility of the initiating specialist or private provider.
- We will communicate our policy to relevant stakeholders, including local hospitals and specialists.

Review and Monitoring:

This policy will be reviewed annually or as needed to ensure it remains aligned with current best practices and regulatory requirements.

References:

- BMA's Prescribing in General Practice, April 2018
- NHS England Guidance on Shared Care Agreements