**PRESCRIBING POLICY FOR PATIENTS TRAVELLING ABROAD**

**THE GREYSWOOD PRACTICE**

**Introduction:**

**This policy is designed to outline the procedure for patients travelling abroad for short or long periods of time and what to do regarding medication**

**NHS Policy:**

**The NHS ceases to have responsibility for the medical care of patients when they leave the UK.**

**However, The NHS does accept responsibility for supplying ongoing medication for pre-existing conditions for temporary periods abroad of up to 3 months. However, if a person is going to be abroad for more than 3 months, then they are only entitled (at NHS expense) to a sufficient supply of regular medication in order to get to their destination, where they should the find an alternative supply of that medication.**

**Patients under no circumstances can request medication when they abroad or use a local proxy to request the medication on their behalf. This would be seen as fraud.**

Greyswood Practice policy:

**Travelling out of the country for less than 3 months:**

Patients who tell us that they will be leaving the UK for less than 3 months, will be prescribed sufficient medication for pre-exisitng conditions where it is safe to do so. If the medication requires regular monitoring, this may not be deemed safe and will not be prescribed.

**Travelling out of the country for more than 3 months:**

Patients who tell us that they will be leaving the UK for more than 3 months or residing outside of the UK indefinitely, will be prescribed sufficient medication for up to 3 months to allow them to make alternative arrangements at their pre-defined destination.

As the NHS ceases responsibility for medical care for a patient once the patient has left the UK, The patient will be removed from our Patient list. If the patient returns to the UK and is living in our catchment area, we will be happy to re-register the patient and can reassure patients that existing electronic records will be kept on file.

**Prescribing medication in case of illness abroad:**

GPs will only prescribe NHS prescriptions in this case for exacerbations of pre-existing illness if medically indicated.

GPs will not prescribe NHS prescriptions such as antibiotics in case of illness abroad for anyone without a pre-existing illness.

GPs will not prescribe we will not prescribe any medication for any new illness while abroad, and it is the responsibility of the patient to find alternative healthcare in the country that they are in.

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