



## Private investigations - SOP

The Practice follows BMA guidance about organising tests requested by private providers.

Patients may pay for additional private healthcare whilst continuing to receive care from the NHS. However for those patients who choose to see a specialist privately, any tests recommended must be arranged in the private sector, as this forms part of the private episode of care.

BMA guidance is clear, that in order to ensure there is no risk of the NHS subsidising private care, private and NHS care should be kept as clearly separate as possible. The patient should bear the full cost of any private services and NHS resources should never be used to subsidise this.

Providing tests for private providers is outside the scope of NHS primary medical services.

Tests should only be carried out by the GP when:

- it is necessary for the GP's care of the patient
- AND the GP deems it clinically appropriate (ie falls within recommended guidelines)
- AND where the test does not require specialist interpretation or management.

For patients who meet the criteria for tests done in a GP setting, they can share their test results with their private provider through access to their medical records - for example via the NHS app.

We appreciate there may be times where the person responsible for your care is unclear, or where you are receiving input from multiple clinicians. If you have any questions or concerns about the above policy and what it means for you, please put these in writing and we will assess your case individually. Regardless of who you choose for your care, we will continue to treat your problem equitably. We will also continue to support patients with a referral to NHS specialists if needed.