



Edlesborough & Pitstone Surgery Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Referrals and Medication Policy Statement

An increasing number of patients and families are seeking private treatment for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and wishing for this treatment to be continued within the NHS (GP Surgery) once their medication has stabilised.

The complexity of medication management to control ADHD necessitates careful monitoring by the ADHD practitioner. Requests for the continuation of ADHD medication (by way of examples: lisdexamphetamine, dexamfetamine, atomoxetine, guanfacine, etc.) requires a Shared Care Agreement to be in place between the ADHD practitioner and the NHS (GP Surgery).

Without a Shared Care Agreement, the NHS (GP Surgery) cannot provide a patient with medication used to treat their ADHD.

Background

Increasing numbers of individuals being diagnosed with ADHD has placed significant stress upon NHS services to perform assessment, diagnosis & treatment. Policies & protocols have been deployed nationally to ensure safe on-going management & care of ADHD patients.

Our Integrated Care Board (ICB) policy states that Shared Care is only allowed between patients who have been referred through the 'Right to Choose' pathway to an NHS commissioned ADHD provider. Once the patient becomes stable on their medication, their GP Surgery (NHS) will be able to take over prescribing of medication and ongoing regular monitoring via a Shared Care Agreement.

NHS ADHD Assessment

ADHD assessment made through the NHS 'Right to Choose' pathway are fully funded including any medication required. Once the patient becomes stable on their medication, their GP Surgery (NHS) will be able to take over prescribing of medication and ongoing regular monitoring via a Shared Care Agreement.

Private ADHD Assessment

If you have an ADHD assessment made through a private practitioner who **isn't** commissioned (by the ICB) through the NHS 'Right to Choose' pathway then ongoing treatment and any medication can only be provided privately through that practitioner.

To receive ADHD treatment/medication through the NHS (GP Surgery), patients will need to be re-referred and re-assessed through one of the (ICB approved) 'Right to Choose' ADHD providers. It is important that patients, parents or guardians understand that when a patient is referred to the NHS 'Right to Choose' ADHD provider, they will be added to the waiting list. The NHS 'Right to Choose' ADHD provider waiting lists vary and different guidance applies for adults & children. Until the patient has been accepted by the NHS 'Right to Choose' ADHD provider you will need to continue to obtain your on-going treatment/medication from your existing private practitioner.

There is **NO** obligation for the NHS (GP Surgery) to prescribe treatment recommended by a private practitioner if it is contrary to the ICB agreement, even if the patient demonstrates that they are benefiting from the treatment and medication.

Edlesborough Surgery are committed to fostering an environment of inclusivity and fairness in healthcare delivery. Our decision to update our ADHD Referrals & Medication Policy and prescribing practices reflects this commitment, prioritising the wellbeing and equitable treatment of all our patients.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we strive to provide the best possible care to our patients.

Integrated Care Board Contact Details

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Disclaimer

The guidance in this document was accurate at the time of publication (2025-03). Users should ensure that further guidance has not been published (e.g. NHS England, BOB ICB, etc.) that changes this policy statement.

Revision 2025-03

2024-12 v1 Formalised Policy

2025-03 v2 Disclaimer Added

ONE DRIVE DOCUMENT – FOR SURGERY INFORMATION ONLY

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