

## Supply of medication to patients attending appointments at BMI The Chaucer Hospital (arrangements are under discussion with other providers)

### Patients attending private hospitals for an NHS appointment

The Chaucer has been issued with NHS prescription pads and GPs should not be requested to prescribe on FP10 following an NHS appointment. This process is being duplicated for the other local private hospitals (Spires, Benenden and the Spencer wing but is not yet in place)

The processes followed at the Chaucer for the most frequent situations requiring prescriptions are as follows:

#### Anticoagulation

**Pre-op:** cover for patients with anti-coagulation history- sufficient is supplied within tariff to NHS patients

**Post op:** the cost of the anti-coagulant is within tariff and the full quantity is supplied to the patient on discharge.

#### Analgesia (post-op)

A limited quantity (4-5 days' supply) is provided which is less than the standard 14 days' supply on discharge. The reason for this quantity being supplied is due to this being sufficient for most operations and prevents overuse of analgesia, or medicines left over which may be used inappropriately. In addition this allows supply of an original pack with the manufacturer's labelling and information leaflet. Larger packs can be provided if appropriate at discharge.

#### Outpatients

Patient are supplied with a maximum of 28 days (or less if clinically appropriate) Within Pharmacy hours, patients are supplied with medication on a private prescription which is dispensed free of charge. The consultant must send the patient to the BMI Chaucer Hospital pharmacy.  
Outside of pharmacy hours, FP10s are supplied

## Patients attending private hospitals for private appointment (non-NHS)

Insurance companies will not pay for medicines which are required on discharge, even if those medicines are an essential part of the procedure.

The process followed at the Chaucer for the most frequent situations which occur are as follows:

### Anticoagulation

**Pre-op:** where cover for patients with anti-coagulation history is required, sufficient is supplied at no charge.

**Post-op:** anti-coagulant at a set charge is made for hips and knees in advance to allow for variation in prescribing duration and cost (clexane and rivaroxaban differ). The cost is set around the cost price to BMI

Patients are notified that payment for post-op anticoagulation is required **in advance** of the operation (to avoid patients refusing to pay post op and being left at risk) and information is sent to the patients about the charges.

There have been occasions where patients have visited their GP before or after their operation and asked for the anti-coagulants to be provided on FP10 to avoid these charges but requests should be referred to the Chaucer. Supply is available as part of the private arrangements the patient has chosen to make.

### Post-op analgesia:

A limited quantity (4-5 days' supply) is provided

The reason for this quantity being supplied is due to this being sufficient for most operations and prevents overuse of analgesia, or medicines left over which may be used inappropriately. In addition this allows supply of an original pack with the manufacturer's labelling and information leaflet. Larger packs can be provided if appropriate at discharge.

### Outpatients

Patients are supplied on a private prescription as required and the cost of this prescription is the patient responsibility. GPs are not required to provide an NHS prescription for this or to continue prescribing. Further information on prescribing following a private consultation is provided in the Prescribing guidelines at the following web link with an extract below (Appendix 1)

### Contact details in case of queries

Telephone: Pharmacy BMI The Chaucer Hospital 01227 825127 or 01227 764897.  
Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, Saturday 9am to 12.30am.

## Appendix 1

### PRESCRIBING FOLLOWING A PRIVATE CONSULTATION

#### 12.1

##### When referred by the patient's GP

##### 12.1.1

Following a private consultation, there is no obligation for the GP to prescribe the recommended treatment if it is contrary to his/her normal clinical practice.

##### 12.1.2

A consultant who, following a private consultation, has recommended treatment for the patient's clinical circumstances, should continue to prescribe until the GP has agreed to prescribe treatment.

##### 12.1.3

The patient's GP may prescribe the treatment at the request of the consultant following a private consultation as long as it is for a medication normally available on the NHS, the GP considers it to be medically appropriate, in line with local policies and/or guidelines, and the GP is willing to accept clinical responsibility for prescribing the item.

##### 12.1.4

If the GP does not feel able to accept clinical responsibility for the medication, responsibility for prescribing remains with the private consultant. The GP may consider whether to refer to an NHS consultant who can consider whether to prescribe the treatment as part of NHS funded treatment but only if this is in line with normal referral protocols for the NHS

##### 12.1.5

Medication recommended by private consultants may be more expensive than those prescribed for the same clinical situation as part of NHS treatment. In such circumstances, local prescribing advice should be followed by the NHS GP.

##### 12.1.6

When a private referral is made, patients may be given the leaflet shown in Appendix 2, explaining the situation regarding NHS prescriptions following private consultations. Enclosing a copy with any referral letter may also be useful.

#### 12.2

##### When self-referred

##### 12.2.1

People who refer themselves independently of the GP (i.e. outside of the NHS) whether in the UK or abroad are expected to pay the full cost of any treatment they receive in relation to the care provided privately

## APPENDIX 2

### INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS CONSIDERING PRIVATE MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS

When you see a private specialist you should be aware what may happen about medication you may need after the consultation.

#### **1 Independent Private referral**

People who refer themselves to a consultant independently of the GP (i.e. outside the NHS), whether in the UK or abroad, are expected to pay the full cost of any treatment they receive in relation to the care provided privately.

#### **2 Private referral through your GP**

After a private referral made by your GP, your private specialist may give you a prescription. Sometimes you may only need one prescription. The prescription provided by your private specialist will be a private prescription and you must pay for the medication. If you need continued treatment you may be given just one private prescription (which you will need to pay for) and advised to return to your GP to see if further NHS prescriptions can be provided.

A NHS prescription to continue your treatment will only be provided if your GP considers there is a clinical need and that an NHS patient would be treated in the same way; there is no obligation for the GP to prescribe the treatment recommended by a private specialist. In order to judge your clinical need your GP must have received a full clinical report from the private specialist and therefore you may not be able to have a prescription immediately.

GPs have agreed to prescribe in line with local policies. If the recommendation from your private specialist is for treatment that is not in line with local policies, then your GP may change the medication in line with the drugs used for NHS patients. If the GP feels the treatment is for a specialist area the GP can ask the specialist to remain responsible for the treatment and to provide further prescriptions which the patient will need to pay for.

Extract from the CCGs Prescribing Guidelines (currently under review)

<http://www.canterburycoastalccg.nhs.uk/about-us/prescribing-advice/?assetdet7576137=308659&categoryesct17925247=13849>

**Approved by:** East Kent Prescribing Group (Representing Ashford CCG, Canterbury and Coastal CCG, South Kent Coast CCG and Thanet CCG)

**Date:** October 2014

**Address:** c/o Canterbury and Coastal CCG, Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW

**Contact:** T: 01227 791359 | E: [accg.eastkent.prescribing@nhs.net](mailto:accg.eastkent.prescribing@nhs.net)