



PRIVATE PRESCRIPTIONS - Conversion to NHS Prescriptions Policy

Private Prescriptions are written for medications, which your private Doctor or Consultant has recommended for you. A private prescription is not an NHS prescription and so the NHS does not pay for it. Private prescriptions can be taken direct to any pharmacy. Please bear in mind that the cost you will need to pay will be the price of the medication and **NOT** the standard NHS prescription fee.

A prescription is a legal document. The prescriber (Doctor or Consultant) takes responsibility for the patient's use of that medication and for its monitoring. The prescriber must be confident that they have all of the relevant information available to consider the appropriateness of the medication and any associated risks.

Where possible, Pulborough Medical Group will convert private prescriptions to NHS prescriptions. The first prescription may be treated as a private prescription and will need to be paid for at a pharmacy, unless the patient is prepared to wait up to 5 working days for the GP to review the case. This time allows our GPs to assess the medication, be in receipt of relevant information from the private prescribing Doctor or Consultant, understand the need for this medication and add this prescription onto the patient's medical record. However, please note that the doctors at Pulborough Medical Group **ARE NOT** obligated to do this.

Our GPs and other NHS prescribers adhere to strict guidelines, formularies, licensing information and protocols applicable to NHS prescriptions. This does unfortunately mean that some items cannot be prescribed in primary care (i.e. by a GP rather than a hospital consultant). **An NHS prescription can only be provided if the medication is available and provided on the NHS.**

Additionally, our GP's reserve the right to assess any request for prescribing in accordance with a private Doctor's recommendations on an individual basis for those patients with life-threatening conditions.