

## Loughton Surgery

### Shared Care Prescribing Policy

#### 1. Purpose

This policy outlines the approach of Loughton Surgery to the prescribing of medicines under shared care agreements. It ensures prescribing is safe, appropriate, and compliant with national and local NHS guidance.

#### 2. Definition of Shared Care

Shared care is a formal arrangement between an NHS specialist (typically secondary care) and a GP. It allows for the ongoing prescribing and monitoring of certain medicines after the patient has been stabilised by the specialist.

Shared care can only proceed if there is:

- \* An agreed and recognised shared care protocol.
- \* A written request from the specialist.
- \* Willing acceptance by the GP.

#### 3. Key Principles

##### 3.1. Eligibility Criteria

Loughton Surgery GPs will only accept shared care prescribing when all of the following apply:

- \* The medication is covered by an approved NHS shared care protocol (local or national).
- \* The patient is under the active care of an NHS specialist.
- \* The specialist has:
  - \* Initiated and stabilised the treatment.
  - \* Clearly communicated the prescribing and monitoring requirements.
  - \* Provided a written shared care request and supporting protocol.
- \* The GP is confident and competent to prescribe and monitor the medication safely.

##### 3.2. Private Specialist Care

- \* Shared care arrangements will not be entered into if the patient is under the care of a private consultant.
- \* Medications recommended by private specialists will not be prescribed under shared care unless:
  - \* The patient is transferred to an NHS service, and
  - \* An NHS specialist assumes responsibility and provides an appropriate shared care request.

### **3.3. Right to Decline**

Loughton Surgery reserves the right to decline shared care prescribing in the following circumstances:

- \* The request falls outside of approved protocols.
- \* The GP does not feel it is clinically safe or appropriate.
- \* Specialist oversight or ongoing support is lacking.
- \* Monitoring requirements are unclear or unmanageable in primary care.

## **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **4.1. Specialist Responsibilities**

- \* Initiate and stabilise the medication.
- \* Provide a written shared care request.
- \* Supply a recognised shared care protocol.
- \* Remain available for advice, review, and re-referral as needed.

### **4.2. GP Responsibilities (Once Accepted)**

- \* Prescribe the medication as per the shared care protocol.
- \* Undertake appropriate monitoring.
- \* Communicate concerns or adverse outcomes to the specialist promptly.
- \* Review and renew prescriptions safely and within scope of competence.

### **4.3. Patient Responsibilities**

- \* Attend all scheduled monitoring and specialist appointments.
- \* Report side effects or concerns promptly.
- \* Remain engaged with both primary and secondary care as required.

## **5. Review and Exceptions**

- \* This policy will be reviewed annually or in line with updated NHS guidance.
- \* Any exception to this policy must be agreed by the prescribing lead and documented clearly.