

Shared Care Agreement Policy

The Falmouth Health Centre Practice

‘Shared Care’ describes the circumstances when specialist medication is prescribed by a consultant initially. Once the patient is stable and the monitoring requirements are met the GP may then take over prescribing under the guidance of the consultant.

It is important to note that the doctor signing a prescription (usually the GP) is legally responsible for that prescription. Shared care agreements between GPs and consultants are optional. If a GP does not agree to shared care, the consultant remains responsible for issuing prescriptions.

The Local Medical Committee (LMC) is a statutory organisation representing GPs, and the British Medical Association (BMA) is the professional body supporting doctors in practice. Both the LMC and the BMA advise against entering into shared care agreements with private providers for a number of reasons.

In line with this advice, and due to capacity constraints at Falmouth Health Centre, we will no longer engage in shared care agreements with any private providers, including Right to Choose providers, effective from 22nd July 2025.

This policy also applies to patients transferring from another GP surgery who were previously involved in shared care with a private provider.

We will, however, continue to review and, where appropriate, accept shared care agreements for patients who are under the care of NHS providers.

Thank you for your understanding.

The Partners of Falmouth Health Centre