

The Morris House Group Practice

Tests Requested by Private Providers or for Private Treatment Policy

Morris House Group Practice follows the following guidance regarding requests for blood tests from private providers:

If a patient has chosen to pay for private healthcare because

- a) their treatment is not available on the NHS or
- b) they do not wish to be treated on the NHS

they are responsible for paying for all costs, including tests, and the private provider is responsible for managing every aspect of their healthcare unless there is a funded mechanism for their private provider to refer back into an NHS secondary care system.

For that reason, private providers should not be asking GPs to arrange any tests that they deem necessary, and intend to use, to make a diagnosis, monitor or recommend a course of treatment.

It is the private provider's responsibility to arrange tests for patients whose care they are managing, and the patient's responsibility to pay for them.

National guidance informing this policy is outlined below.

Last reviewed Jan 2025.

British Medical Association Guidance

If general practices receive requests from private providers to arrange tests or investigations, it is important to note that complying with such requests - regardless of the GP's management and treatment of the patient - is outside the scope of NHS primary medical services.

The [NHS GMS Regulations](#) define essential services as services which are delivered in the manner determined by the GP in discussion with the patient. Therefore, a GP provider should only carry out investigations and prescribe medication for a patient where it is necessary for the GP's care of the patient and the GP is the responsible doctor.

NHS guidance

Patients may pay for additional private healthcare while continuing to receive care from the NHS.

However, in order to ensure that there is no risk of the NHS subsidising private care:

- *It should always be clear whether an individual procedure or treatment is privately funded or NHS funded.*
- *Private and NHS care should be kept as clearly separate as possible.*

- *The patient should bear the full costs of any private services. NHS resources should never be used to subsidise the use of private care.*
- *The arrangements put in place to deliver additional private care should be designed to ensure as clear a separation as possible of funding, legal status, liability and accountability between NHS care and any private care that a patient receives.*

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