



Information for Patients seeking Private Surgery

Linden Medical Group

We are aware that given the current NHS wait times, some of our patients are choosing to see a private specialist either in the UK or abroad to consider private surgery. This statement clarifies our position on follow-up and monitoring. Patients who have undergone private surgery require monitoring in the immediate post-operative period and should have a post-operative follow-up care package privately for a minimum of 2 years.

The follow-up required in the first 2 years after surgery cannot be provided by GPs in NHS primary care. NHS services are not funded to follow-up patients who have private surgery. Therefore, patients who have surgery privately or abroad need to continue to have privately funded follow-up care for the 2 years after their surgery. Therefore, in making the decision to seek private surgery, it is important to consider the costs of your follow-up care as well as the costs of the surgery as there is no NHS follow-up currently available for private surgery.

NHS guidance states:

The patient should bear the full costs of any private services. NHS resources should never be used to subsidise the use of private care. Sometimes we receive requests from private providers to arrange tests or investigations, for patients that they have seen privately. We appreciate that this may be to save you the cost of these investigations, however complying with this request is outside the scope of NHS general practice work and NHS guidance.

Our contract states that a GP should only carry out investigations and prescribe medication for a patient where the GP is the responsible doctor and it is necessary for the care of the patient. This means that the GP has had the full consultation with the patient themselves and has agreed, with the patient, the investigations that are needed.

The reason for this is not only because we are not contracted (and therefore not paid) to do this work, we also may not have the knowledge, resource or capacity to be able to perform these tests on behalf of private providers. When we get these requests will advise you and the private provider that these services do not fall within NHS primary medical services and suggest they make alternative arrangements to get the investigations done. We advise it is your responsibility to also arrange these privately as part of your package of private care. If the surgery was completed in the UK, it is the surgeon's responsibility to

provide follow-up treatment. The GP will not need to refer the patient back to this surgeon, if the surgery was completed privately or under the NHS, the responsibility is retained by the surgeon and requires no intervention from the GP. The patient must contact the surgeon, or their clinical team, directly.