

Arden House Medical Practice

Policy on Shared Care Prescribing of ADHD Medications.

Date: 1st April 2026

Review Date: to be reviewed and updated in accordance with NHS guidance.

Purpose

This policy sets out Arden House Medical Practice position on shared care prescribing of ADHD medications for adults and children, to ensure safe, consistent and sustainable prescribing in line with NHS guidance and local shared care protocols.

Background

Sometimes when a diagnosis of ADHD is made, treatment with medication may be suggested. These are specialist medications and prescribing always needs to be overseen by a specialist. GPs are not allowed to prescribe these medications without specialist guidance. The responsibility for initiating medication and getting it stable lies with the specialist.

Once a patient is stable on medication the specialist provider may ask the practice to take over prescribing under a “shared care” arrangement (SCA). Shared care involves the patient staying under the supervision of their specialist who works jointly with the GP to ensure they receive the correct medication at the safest and best dose.

It is important to note that GPs are under no obligation to take on any shared care. When deciding whether to do so or not we will always prioritise patient safety. Each request for shared care prescribing is individually reviewed by our clinical team at our weekly clinical meeting and decisions are made as a team rather than by an individual Doctor.

Due to an increasing number of enquiries around this, and the rise in ADHD diagnoses by an increasing number of specialist providers, we have put together a policy to summarise our practice position.

Adult ADHD Prescribing

- **NHS Services** – there is currently no NHS ADHD service in Derbyshire, but where patients are under an NHS service we would usually be happy to enter into an NHS approved SCA.
- **NHS Patients seen under Right to Choose pathway by a private provider** – we will only enter into SCA where the provider agrees to follow the Derbyshire agreed NHS National ADHD shared care protocol guidelines.
- **Patients seen by private providers as a private patient** – we **do not** share prescribing for private patients under any circumstances. This is very important to note prior to undergoing an assessment as this means that the long-term ongoing cost of prescriptions will remain with you. We cannot issue an NHS prescription in this scenario.

Child ADHD Prescribing

- **NHS Services (usually Chesterfield paediatrics)** – We will usually be happy to enter into SCA unless there is a specific clinical reason why we cannot do so. This will be in line with the Derbyshire agreed paediatric ADHD SCA.
- **NHS Patients seen under Right to Choose pathway by a private provider** –
 - **Patients referred prior to 1st April 2026** – we will consider on an individual basis any request for shared care. We will only accept arrangements where the provider is willing to sign the Derbyshire approved SCA. We will not agree to any alternative SCA. All physical monitoring (ECG, BP checks etc) remains the responsibility of the specialist.
 - **Patients referred after 1st April 2026** – we **will not** enter into any shared care with Right To Choose providers for children referred after this date.
- **Patients seen by private providers as a private patient** – we **do not** share prescribing for private patients under any circumstances. This is very important to note prior to undergoing an assessment as this means that the long-term ongoing cost of prescriptions will remain with you. We cannot issue an NHS prescription in this scenario.