



Short date letter merged

Full Name

Home Full Address (stacked)

Dear Title Surname,

Re Referral to Private Consultant

You recently saw one of the doctors at the practice, and requested a letter of referral to a private consultant. We have pleasure in enclosing a copy of your referral letter. As private referrals are outside our NHS work, we are entitled to charge for a letter of referral, but have decided as a practice to waive such charges.

If the costs of your private treatment are going to be covered by an insurance company, we recommend that you seek their approval before going ahead and making an appointment with the private consultant. If we are required to complete and sign any claim form for the insurance company, in order for you to recover some costs, there will be a charge for completion, which depends on the complexity of the form.

As we do not work in the private sector, we do not feel able to make recommendations about particular private consultants. It is your responsibility to research the possible options for your care, and decide which consultant you want to see. Our staff are not able to offer you assistance in this regard. Your insurer may be able to help by giving you a list of approved consultants, or you may find information on the internet regarding the local private hospitals.

Please also be aware that if the private consultant recommends a medication, he or she should provide this for you on a private prescription, which you will then have to purchase at a pharmacist. The cost of medications may be excluded from your insurance cover, so please be prepared for this expense.

We are not obliged to provide any recommended medication for you on an NHS prescription. It is the doctor who signs any prescription who carries legal and clinical responsibility for the prescription, and although a consultant will often advise a GP to prescribe a particular medicine for a patient, if we do not agree that this medication is appropriate, or do not feel sufficiently knowledgeable about the use/interactions/side effects of the particular medication to take personal legal responsibility, we will not prescribe it, and you will have to continue to obtain supplies on a private prescription.

If you need investigations as part of your private treatment, these need to be organized by your private consultant/clinic. We cannot provide investigations on the NHS for private



treatment. In particular, we cannot provide investigations or medication to support private fertility treatment, if you are not eligible for treatment for infertility on the NHS.

If you wish to discuss whether or not we will prescribe a medication recommended by a consultant, please make an appointment with one of the doctors.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Emma Rowley-Conwy, Dr Debbie Hipps, Dr Helen Fowler & Dr Iman Velji
Partners