

Policy for administering private medication

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Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to outline the practice stance on requests for practice staff to administer medication / injections that have been obtained privately.

Background

It has become easier to obtain medication privately or via the internet, both of which create different issues.

Where medication has been issued privately, the medication may be prescribed 'off licence' – e.g. at a dose that is not recommended by NICE guidelines, or for a condition not recommended by the medication manufacturer – or a consultation without access to the patient's full records and medical history.

Medication that has been obtained via the internet may not be what the patient thinks they have purchased – e.g. Ozempic was being 'watered down' to make a dose go further and the seller.

Risks / Decision

There are many risks associated with administering medication that has been obtained privately, and while patients can choose to take or administer this themselves, they cannot ask practice professionals to do this for them and share in that risk.

As a result, the practice will not provide administer any medication to a patient that they have obtained privately or personally.

This will primarily be in the form of an injection, and practice clinicians will not do this.

Additionally, practice staff will not train patients on how to do injections (either intramuscular or subcutaneous). If the patient has obtained medication privately, that is the responsibility of the provider to deliver the training on how to use the medication,

not the practice. If the patient has obtained the medication by other means, that is not the practice's responsibility to demonstrate how to use it (or to be complicit in its use by being involved).