

## Question:

1. I am writing to request a copy of the Department of Health (Northern Ireland) guidance titled:  
Private (non-HSC) Prescribing Requests Guidance for Primary Care Prescribers”, issued in or around September 2024.

This guidance is referenced within Northern Health and Social Care Trust policy NHSCT/25/2115 – Shared-Care of Amber List Specialist Medicines; Good Practice Guidance for Initiating, which states that where shared care is proposed outside HSC arrangements, clinicians should refer to Department of Health guidance”.

2. Please also provide a copy of any related policy or guidance which was in force from January 2022 - September 2024”.
3. I would be grateful if you could include:
  - a) The full guidance document(s), including any appendices or annexes
  - b) Any accompanying implementation notes or circulars issued to HSC Trusts or primary care.
  - c) Does this guidance apply to all HSC prescribers, regardless of employment model.

## Response:

1. A copy of the guidance is attached, see appendix 1.
2. Circular HSS(MD)26/2022 Responsibility for Prescribing Between Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Care Services for the Supply of Medicines and Other Pharmaceutical Products can be accessed at <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-hss-md-26-2022.pdf>

The following policy documents are attached:

- DOH Policy Regarding Patients Accessing Private Healthcare Outside of Northern Ireland, see appendix 2.
  - DOH Policy Regarding Patients Accessing Private Healthcare Within the UK, see appendix 3.
  - HSC Circular ECCPD 124 Clarification Guidance on Roles and Responsibilities – Accessing Private Healthcare, see appendix 4.
  - Letter to GP practices – Pre and/or Post Treatment Support in Primary Care for Individuals Procuring Private Healthcare Services, see appendix 5.
3.
    - a) Patient Information Guidance on Prescriptions after seeing a Private Practitioner can be accessed at <https://online.hscni.net/our-work/pharmacy-and-medicines-management/private-prescriptions/>
    - b) Accompanying letter attached, see appendix 6.
    - c) With regards to the reference guidance, “Private (non-HSC) Prescribing Requests Guidance for Primary Care Prescribers”. As indicated by the title this is applicable to Primary Care Prescribers.

*Appendices may be requested from the Information Management Branch (IMB) if required at the following address:*

[FOI@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@health-ni.gov.uk)

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