

## **Thames Valley Priorities Committees Buckinghamshire/Milton Keynes Priorities Committee**

**Policy Statement: NHS prescribing following private consultation**

**Policy No: 14**

*ref TV45*

**Date of Issue: March 2005**

**The Thames Valley Priorities committees' make the following the recommendation regarding NHS prescribing following private consultation;**

- 1 The responsibility for prescribing rests with the doctor who has clinical responsibility for a particular aspect of the patient's care. Where, for instance, an NHS doctor refers a patient to a consultant for advice but, when appropriate, retains clinical responsibility, he/she should issue the necessary prescriptions and at NHS expense.
- 2 Prescribing at NHS expense may only be undertaken for NHS patients for NHS consultations
- 3 People who opt to be referred privately (i.e. outside of the NHS arrangements) are expected to pay the full cost of any treatment they receive in relation to the care provided privately.
- 4 Any drugs prescribed or treatment provided by a clinician in the course of a private consultation should be at the patient's expense.
- 5 Following a private consultation, there is no obligation for the GP to prescribe the recommended treatment if it is contrary to local agreement or his/her normal clinical practice.

This statement will be reviewed in light of new evidence or further guidance from NICE

(Supporting reference paper available)

### References

1. *The British Medical Association Interface between NHS and private treatment - Guidance from the Ethics Department February 2004*
2. *North Derbyshire Prescribing and New technologies Strategy Group. Prescribing situations not covered by the NHS January 2001*