

LISTER HOUSE SURGERY

SEEKING PRIVATE HEALTHCARE ABROAD AND YOUR NHS CARE

PATIENT INFORMATION | CLEAR GUIDANCE TO HELP PATIENTS UNDERSTAND HOW NHS CARE CAN SAFELY SUPPORT TREATMENT ARRANGED PRIVATELY ABROAD.

Thank you for contacting the practice regarding treatment you have received, or are considering receiving, abroad. We appreciate you sharing this information with us so that we can understand your request and explain how we may be able to support you safely within NHS care.

We understand that some patients choose to arrange private healthcare abroad. This may be to access treatment sooner, seek a second opinion, or arrange care that they feel is right for them. Choosing private care abroad does not affect your right to receive NHS care from the practice.

Before you arrange treatment abroad

If you are thinking about private treatment abroad, we strongly encourage you to check what is included in your private package before you travel. This should include any tests, scans, medication, aftercare, follow-up appointments, and what to do if there are complications when you return home.

The practice cannot usually take over care that has been planned or started by a private overseas provider unless one of our clinicians decides this is safe, appropriate, and part of your NHS care.

Sharing letters, reports, or results from abroad

You can send us copies of letters, reports, scan results, blood test results, or diagnoses from your overseas provider. We can add these to your NHS medical record.

However, we may not always be able to act on these results. Overseas services may use different standards, test units, reporting systems, medicines, or treatment pathways. Any medical documentation that is not in English must be translated into English by a qualified medical interpreter before it can be reviewed. This arrangement would need to be made by the patient.

Tests, scans, and follow-up after treatment abroad

If your overseas provider recommends blood tests, scans, wound checks, monitoring, or other follow-up, they should explain how this will be arranged before you return to the UK. Follow-up linked to private overseas treatment remains the responsibility of the private provider unless NHS care is clinically needed.

The practice may only arrange tests or follow-up if one of our clinicians feels this is needed for your NHS care and can safely manage the results. We cannot guarantee that NHS services will provide routine aftercare for treatment arranged privately abroad.

We are unable to interpret scan images or arrange for these images to be reviewed on behalf of a private overseas provider. If scan images need to be interpreted or reviewed, this must be arranged by the patient through their overseas or private provider.

Medication from an overseas provider

If an overseas provider recommends or starts medication, they are responsible for prescribing it and explaining how it should be monitored. Medicines used abroad may have different names, doses, licensing arrangements, or monitoring requirements in the UK.

The practice cannot issue an NHS prescription simply because a medicine has been recommended overseas. Before we can consider prescribing, we need enough information to decide whether it is safe, suitable for NHS prescribing, and in line with UK guidance. If this is not the case, the overseas or private provider will need to continue prescribing it.



If you need NHS care when you return

If you become unwell, develop new symptoms, or have concerns after returning to the UK, please contact the practice or use the appropriate NHS urgent care service. We will assess your NHS care needs in the usual way.

If your overseas provider thinks you need NHS specialist care, they should provide a clear written summary of your treatment, diagnosis, results, medication, and the reason for any onward care. Any NHS referral will be considered according to NHS pathways and clinical need. Having private treatment abroad should not give you an advantage or disadvantage when accessing NHS services.

What to check with your overseas provider

- **What tests, scans, medication, and follow-up are included in your private treatment package.**
- **Who will review your results and explain them to you.**
- **What aftercare is needed when you return to the UK.**
- **What you should do if you have complications or concerns after travelling home.**
- **Whether all reports, results, and medication details can be provided in English.**
- **Whether any non-English medical documents can be translated into English by a qualified medical interpreter, arranged by you.**
- **How your overseas provider can be contacted if further information is needed.**

Summary checklist

- ☐ I have checked what is included in my private overseas treatment package.
- ☐ I know who will arrange and explain my tests, scans, and results.
- ☐ I know who is responsible for my medication and any monitoring needed.
- ☐ I have a clear aftercare plan for when I return to the UK.
- ☐ I know what to do if I have complications or concerns after returning home.
- ☐ I can provide reports, results, and medication details in English, or arrange for non-English medical documents to be translated into English by a qualified medical interpreter.
- ☐ I understand that the practice cannot interpret scan images or arrange for them to be reviewed, and that this must be arranged by me through my overseas or private provider.
- ☐ I understand that the NHS practice can only arrange tests, prescriptions, or referrals where this is safe, appropriate, and in line with NHS guidance.



In summary

We support your choice to seek private healthcare abroad and will continue to provide NHS care when you need it. To keep your care safe, the overseas private provider must remain responsible for the treatment they arrange, including follow-up, medication, results, and aftercare. The practice will only arrange tests, prescribe medication, or make referrals where this is safe, appropriate, and in line with NHS guidance.

If you are unsure what information we need, or whether your request can be supported by the practice, please contact us and we will advise you as clearly as we can.

Lister House Surgery is committed to providing clear, helpful information so patients can make informed decisions about their care and understand how the practice can support them safely within NHS guidance.

To read the NHS guidance, please click the link below if you are viewing this document electronically. If the link does not open, you can copy and paste the website address into your internet browser.

[Going abroad for medical treatment - NHS](#)

