

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole

NHS Foundation Trust

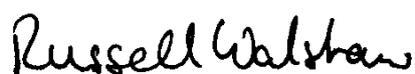
Duty of care regarding drugs recommended from outpatients

The General Practitioners Committee and the Consultant Committee have issued a joint statement in relation to drugs recommended from outpatients. The LMC is committed to working with the Hospital Trusts in our region to agree policies that embody these general principles:

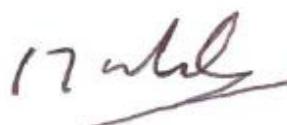
Duty of Care Regarding Drugs Recommended from Outpatients

Communication of prescribing recommendations from out-patient clinics to patients and their GPs is a complex area where patient safety can be compromised.

- Drugs required for urgent administration should be prescribed by the hospital doctor, and if appropriate dispensed by the hospital.
- Responsibility for the provision of a prescription for non-urgent medications should be determined and agreed locally, but must recognise that delegation of responsibility for prescribing from hospital to GP can only take place with the explicit agreement of the GP concerned.
- All communications should be in writing with the responsible doctor identified.
- Where communications are sent via the patient, there should be clear instructions to the patient regarding the time scale for completion of the prescription, and this should be in addition to and not instead of a formal communication.
- The doctor recommending a prescription should ensure that the prescription is appropriate, including carrying out any tests required to ensure safety.
- The doctor recommending a prescription should provide counselling for the patient about important side effects and precautions, including any need for ongoing monitoring, which if needed should be agreed between primary and secondary care clinicians.
- Recommendations should be in line with any agreed local formularies. Individual judgements should be made about the desirability of recommending a particular drug as opposed to a therapeutic class.
- Where a GP feels that a prescription recommendation is inappropriate, the secondary care clinician should be informed.
- Notwithstanding any of the above, all prescribers must be aware that the ultimate responsibility for the prescription lies with the prescribing doctor and cannot be delegated.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell Walshaw".

Dr Russell Walshaw
Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr Lawrence Roberts".

Mr Lawrence Roberts
Medical Director

