



Treatment Planning Policy

It is the aim of this practice to meet the GDC standards on patient communication and consent as well as the relevant regulations and legislation including the requirements of the CQC and other regulatory bodies. This policy applies to all clinical team members.

Every patient is assessed to identify their individual needs and choices at their consultation appointment. Patients are always fully involved in their treatment decisions and are provided with suitable information so that they can make an informed choice, which is documented in their clinical records. The assessment and care planning procedure take account of current guidance and research relating to the care and treatment of patients.

Before the treatment can start, each patient is provided with a written treatment plan, which they are asked to sign to indicate their acceptance and a copy of which is retained in their records.

A treatment plan includes a description of the proposed treatment, a realistic indication of the cost and whether it is provided under the NHS (or equivalent health service) or privately. If the treatment is mixed NHS and private, it is made clear which element is provided under which arrangement.

The treatment plan and estimated costs are reviewed on an on-going basis during the treatment. If there is a change to the treatment plan after treatment has started, the patient is informed and is given the opportunity to agree to the modified treatment plan and sign it before the modified treatment is carried out or the original treatment plan is continued.

Patients are advised whether treatment is guaranteed, under what circumstances and for how long. Clarification is given of any circumstances under which treatment is not guaranteed (such as not attending for regular check-ups).

Patients are provided with clear information about the practice arrangements for emergency and out of hours care and about the practice referral arrangements.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Consent Policy (M 233-CNS) and Referrals Policy (M 233-RFL).