



RIDGEWAY VIEW FAMILY PRACTICE

Investigations with Private Providers Policy

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At Ridgeway View Family Practice, we want to make sure all patients receive safe, consistent, and appropriate care. To help avoid confusion, this policy explains how we handle requests for tests or investigations that come from private healthcare providers.

Requests from Private Providers

Private healthcare providers may sometimes ask the NHS to arrange tests on their behalf. Our practice does not organise investigations requested by private providers. If we receive such a request, we will decline it and send a standard letter back to the provider explaining our policy.

Requests from Patients Following Private Care

If you have seen a private clinician and they recommend tests or investigations, you may be asked to arrange these through your NHS GP. We are unable to arrange NHS investigations that are requested solely to support private treatment.

If this happens, we will ask you to inform your private provider of our policy.

What You *Can* Do

You are welcome to book a routine NHS GP appointment if you would like to discuss your health concern with one of our doctors. During this appointment, the GP will assess your symptoms and decide whether any investigations are clinically appropriate within the NHS pathway.

Why This Policy Exists

NHS and private healthcare systems operate separately. To ensure fairness, safety, and appropriate use of NHS resources, investigations recommended by private providers must be arranged privately unless an NHS GP independently agrees they are necessary.

The British Medical Association supports this stance:

“If general practices receive requests from private providers to arrange tests or investigations, it is important to note that complying with such requests - regardless of the GP’s management and treatment of the patient - is outside the scope of NHS primary medical services.

The [NHS GMS Regulations](#) define essential services as services which are delivered in the manner determined by the GP in discussion with the patient. Therefore, a GP

provider should only carry out investigations and prescribe medication for a patient where it is necessary for the GP's care of the patient, and the GP is the responsible doctor.