

What is a shared care agreement?

A Shared Care Agreement (SCA) is a formal arrangement between healthcare professionals, typically involving a specialist and a general practitioner (GP), to manage the care of a patient

jointly. The purpose of a Shared Care Agreement is to ensure that patients receive consistent, comprehensive, and well-coordinated care, particularly when they require complex or long-term treatment.

What happens under a Shared Care Agreement?

Under a Shared Care Agreement, the specialist and the GP collaborate and share patient care responsibilities. The specialist usually initiates the treatment plan, provides expert advice on managing the condition, and monitors the patient's progress. The GP, in turn, takes on the responsibility of prescribing medication, conducting regular check-ups, monitoring the patient's overall health, and liaising with the specialist as needed.

Shared Care Agreements are particularly common when patients require ongoing specialist medications or treatments for chronic conditions such as ADHD.

The key benefits of Shared Care Agreements include:

Improved continuity of care: the care you receive from your treating psychiatrist at the ADHD and Autism Clinic and your GP will be better coordinated, reducing the risk of fragmented or inconsistent care.

Improved communication: your treating psychiatrist at The ADHD and Autism Clinic and your GP will better understand who is responsible for which aspect of your care.

Greater patient convenience: you can receive your prescription for your ADHD medication from your GP, making ordering repeat prescriptions easier, particularly if you have other items on repeat prescription from your GP. The cost of ADHD medication is almost always cheaper via an NHS prescription than a private prescription, even if you are liable to pay for your NHS prescriptions.

How to request a shared care agreement

Once you are stable on ADHD medication, you may ask that your treating psychiatrist at the ADHD and Autism Clinic requests a shared care agreement with your GP. Our team will process your request promptly, but GPs may not be able to respond at short notice due to their other clinical commitments.