# Shared Care Refusal Letter

# (Primary Care Prescriber to Specialist)

**Re:**

Patient *[insert Patient's name]*

NHS Number *[insert NHS Number]*

Identifier *[insert patient's date of birth and/or address]*

Thank you for your request for me to accept prescribing responsibility for this patient.

In the interest of patient safety NHS *[insert ICB name]***,** in conjunction with local acute trusts have classified *[insert medicine name]*as a Shared Care drug, and requires a number of conditions to be met before transfer can be made to primary care.

**I regret to inform you that in this instance I am unable to take on responsibility due to the following:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Tick which apply** |
| **1.** | **The prescriber does not feel clinically confident in managing this individual patient’s condition, and there is a sound clinical basis for refusing to accept shared care**  As the patients primary care prescriber I do not feel clinically confident to manage this patient’s condition because *[insert reason]*. I have consulted with other primary care prescribers in my practice who support my decision. This is not an issue which would be resolved through adequate and appropriate training of prescribers within my practice.  **I have discussed my decision with the patient and request that prescribing for this individual remain with you as the specialist, due to the sound clinical basis given above.** |  |
| **2.** | **The medicine or condition does not fall within the criteria defining suitability for inclusion in a shared care arrangement**  As the medicine requested to be prescribed is not a BSW [locally agreed](https://bswtogether.org.uk/medicines/area-prescribing-committee/shared-care-agreement/) shared care medicine I am unable to accept clinical responsibility for prescribing this medication at this time.  **Until this medicine is identified locally as requiring shared care the responsibility for providing this patient with their medication remains with you** |  |
| **3.** | **A minimum duration of supply by the initiating clinician**  As the patient has not had the minimum supply of medication to be provided by the initiating specialist, I am unable to take clinical responsibility for prescribing this medication at this time. Therefore, can you please contact the patient as soon as possible in order to provide them with the medication that you have recommended.  ***Until the patient has had the appropriate length of supply the responsibility for providing the patient with their medication remains with you.*** |  |
| **4.** | **Initiation and optimisation by the initiating specialist**  As the patient has not been optimised on this medication, I am unable to take clinical responsibility for prescribing this medication at this time. Therefore can you please contact the patient as soon as possible in order to provide them with the medication that you have recommended.  ***Until the patient is optimised on this medication the responsibility for providing the patient with their medication remains with you.*** |  |
| **5.** | **Shared Care Protocol not received**  As legal responsibility for clinical care lies with the clinician who signs the prescription, I need to ensure that I am in possession of sufficient clinical information for me to be confident to prescribe this treatment for my patient and it is clear where each of our responsibilities lie to ensure the patient is safely managed***.***  For this reason, I am unable to take clinical responsibility for prescribing this medication at this time, therefore would you please contact the patient as soon as possible in order to provide them with the medication that you have recommended.  ***Until I receive the appropriate SCP, responsibility for providing the patient with their medication remains with you.*** |  |
| **6.** | **Other (Primary Care Prescriber to complete if there are other reasons why shared care cannot be accepted)** |  |

I would be willing to consider prescribing for this patient once the above criteria have been met for this treatment.

NHS England ‘Responsibility for prescribing between Primary & Secondary/Tertiary care’ guidance (2018) states that “when decisions are made to transfer clinical and prescribing responsibility for a patient between care settings, it is of the utmost importance that the GP feels clinically competent to prescribe the necessary medicines. It is therefore essential that a transfer involving medicines with which GPs would not normally be familiar should not take place without full local agreement, and the dissemination of sufficient, up-to-date information to individual GPs.” In this case we would also see the term GP being interchangeable with the term Primary Care Prescriber.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any aspect of my letter in more detail and I hope to receive more information regarding this shared care agreement as soon as possible

Yours sincerely

**Primary Care Prescriber signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Primary Care Prescriber address/practice stamp**