**Practice Policy on Prescribing Following Hospital Requests**

**Purpose**

This policy sets out the practice’s position on handling medication requests from hospital departments. It ensures safe prescribing practices and appropriate responsibility-sharing between primary and secondary care.

**Policy Statement**

When a hospital requests the initiation or titration of medication for a patient, the following principles apply:

**1. Initiation of Medication**

* The first prescription must be issued by the hospital department that is recommending the treatment.
* The hospital remains responsible for any initial monitoring, assessment of suitability, and patient counselling regarding the medication.

**2. Titration and Dose Adjustments**

* If the hospital increases or adjusts a medication dose, **they must arrange and review necessary blood tests** or other required monitoring.
* The hospital must issue prescriptions for the medication during the titration period.
* The hospital remains responsible for making any required medication alterations based on the results of monitoring.

**3. Transfer to GP Prescribing**

* Once the patient is **clinically stable**, the GP practice will consider taking over routine prescribing.
* The hospital must provide clear guidance on ongoing monitoring requirements and confirm that it is safe for the GP to continue prescribing.
* The practice will not issue prescriptions for medications that require ongoing specialist monitoring unless a **formal shared care agreement** is in place.

**Example Scenario**

For medications such as **methotrexate**, if the hospital increases the dose, they must:

* Arrange and review blood tests.
* Make any necessary medication alterations.
* Issue prescriptions during the titration period.

Once the patient is **stable**, the GP practice may take over prescribing as part of routine care.

**Staff Guidance**

* Any medication requests from hospitals should be reviewed against this policy.
* If a prescription request does not meet the outlined criteria, the request should be referred back to the hospital for action.
* If there is any uncertainty, consult with one of the GP Partners before actioning the request.

This policy ensures patient safety and appropriate prescribing responsibility between primary and secondary care.

The sample letter to be sent to the hospital is attached below:

