PRACTICE DETAILS

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(Insert date)

**Private Bariatric Surgery Follow-Up Provision**

Dear Patient.

I understand that you have had bariatric surgery abroad and would like our GP surgery to perform the follow up care.

We know that appropriate follow-up care after bariatric surgery is vital to maximise the chance of a safe and successful outcome.

Whilst the practice has sympathy with your position, it is not the responsibility of a general practice to provide follow-up to private surgery which has been carried out abroad. The NHS does not fund the follow-up to private surgery abroad. GP Practices are not funded to provide this follow up care, and nor do they have the expertise.

NICE and the British Obesity and metabolic society (BOMSS) recognise the risks after bariatric surgery and specify that follow up after these procedures should remain with a specialist bariatric service for 2 years post operatively. The GMC ‘Good Medical Practice’ states that GPs should remain within the limits of their competence.

The medical insurance provider MDU states that a UK based GP would leave themselves open to criticism by relying on advice from a specialist based overseas. Overseas providers based are not subject to the same regulatory requirements as Doctors in the UK, work to different guidelines and there also might be language barriers which make shared care inappropriate and unsafe.

We suggest that you find a UK private provider of bariatric services who are willing to take over your specialist follow up care for 2 years. After this time our surgery will kindly take over your long term follow up within a shared care protocol, under the NHS.

If at any time you have any symptoms of concern which you consider maybe a complication of your private bariatric surgery, then please do contact our surgery or A&E or 111 (as appropriate) and we will manage your symptoms clinically within our expertise and refer you onto NHS bariatric services if required.

Many thanks for your understanding

Yours sincerely,

Dr . . . . . . . . . . .