

25 March 2026

Shared Care Agreements Autism & ADHD

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information in relation to GP practices within your HSC Trust area:

1. Shared Care Agreements – Autism

- **The total number of GP practices within your HSC Trust area.**
- **The number of GP practices currently operating under any form of shared care agreement (SCA) relating to autism.**
- **Of those, how many shared care agreements include prescribing of medication.**
- **A breakdown of the type of shared care provided (for example: medication prescribing, physical health monitoring, behavioural support, or other specified responsibilities).**

Autism has no specific prescribing needs as a diagnosis, therefore Belfast Trust can confirm this information is not held.

2. Shared Care Agreements – ADHD (Private Diagnosis Context)

- **The total number of shared care agreements requested in relation to ADHD diagnoses made by private providers within the last five years (if available).**
- **The number of GP practices currently operating under any form of shared care agreement (SCA) relating to ADHD.**
- **A breakdown of the shared care provided including medication prescribing and behavioural support.**
- **The number of those requests that were accepted.**
- **The number and of those requests that were refused.**
- **The proportion (percentage) of shared care requests relating to private ADHD diagnoses that were refused.**
- **If recorded, the most common reasons for refusal.**
- **If recorded, the number of complaints from each GP trust**

In Northern Ireland, matters relating to GP services, shared care arrangements, prescribing responsibilities and the commissioning or approval of shared care protocols are the responsibility of the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG).

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You may wish to redirect your request to: foi.sppg@hscni.net Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) (formerly Health and Social Care Board)

Belfast Trust can only provide information we hold. As we do not hold the information requested, this constitutes a refusal under Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

3. Policy Framework

- **A copy of any current HSC Trust area policy, guidance, or position statements regarding shared care agreements for autism and/or ADHD.**

BHSCT Adult Mental Health and Child Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are guided by the [Share Care Agreement Guidelines](#)

Shared care for ADHD in Northern Ireland involves a voluntary agreement where a specialist initiates medication and a GP takes over, supported by regional "[Amber List](#)" guidelines for stability. This allows a specialist (NHS or private) to manage diagnosis and titration, while the GP takes over long-term, routine prescribing once the medication dose is stable. The GP must agree to take on this responsibility

- **Confirmation of whether GP participation in shared care agreements within your HSC Trust area is mandatory, recommended, or voluntary**

GP participation is on a voluntary basis.

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