Template letter to patients respond to request for aftercare from GP following private bariatric surgery

Dear

We are writing in response to your request for post-operative support at ………… Surgery following your self-funded bariatric surgery. We do understand the importance of effective aftercare and ongoing monitoring following your procedure.

Unfortunately, aaftercare for patients who have self-funded bariatric surgery is not currently commissioned by the local NHS Kent and Medway ICB. Consequently, as a practice, we are unable to provide this specific service.

The post-operative support you have asked for requires specialist input that should be available from the provider that undertook your surgery or via an alternative self-funded route. Specialist NHS services provide this aftercare for patients who have undergone their bariatric surgery within the NHS.

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| **If you had your bariatric surgery abroad:**  Government advice, NHS advice and some patient support groups’ advice on accessing treatment abroad, all advise that patients must be clear about how aftercare will be coordinated and provided after their surgery, and that patients may be responsible for costs of the aftercare and of possible return trips associated with aftercare. Patients who have paid for bariatric surgery abroad have a responsibility to review and plan for all points in the recommended Treatment Abroad checklist (<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/going-abroad-for-treatment/treatment-abroad-checklist/>) and can choose to buy a standalone package of post-operative care through a UK independent sector provider, or other non-UK provider.  It is important to understand how medical treatment abroad works and what risks are involved. If you do not follow correct procedures, you may have to pay the full costs of your treatment. You can find more information online here: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/going-abroad-for-treatment/going-abroad-for-medical-treatment/>. |

Please be reassured that NHS emergency services are available should any emergency treatment be required as a result of any issues arising from your bariatric surgery.

Yours Sincerely