

Date: 19th March 2018

**Announcement for patients seeking Private Practice appointments with
Dr Alan Hakim, Dr Hanadi Kazkaz, and Dr Gayatri Mittal**

If you are seeking to make an appointment with Dr Hakim, Dr Kazkaz or Dr Mittal for the first time, please read this carefully.

This announcement does not affect you if you already have an appointment booked with Dr Hakim, Dr Kazkaz, or Dr Mittal, or you are an existing patient seeking follow-up.

All new referrals to our clinics will require a letter of referral.

With immediate effect we are no longer able to accept self-referral to our clinics.

If you wish to see us we ask that your GP or any Consultant managing your care write to us detailing your concerns, and the purpose of the referral.

How to contact us

We are contactable by the following means:

	Dr Hakim	Dr Kazkaz	Dr Mittal
By Email for Private referrals	Contact@alanhakim.com Or a.hakim@nhs.net	Kazkazhje@gmail.com	Secretary2@drmittal.uk
By Post for Private Referral	Dr Alan J Hakim PO BOX 53189 LONDON E18 9DH (Please do not write to the hospitals where he practices)	Level 1 Brampton Hse, The Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, 60 Grove End Road, London NW8 9NH	Level 1 Brampton Hse, The Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth, 60 Grove End Road, London NW8 9NH
For NHS Referral	Not Applicable	Dept of Rheumatology, UCLH Level 3 Central, 250 Euston Road, London NW1 2PG (follow guidance for Hypermobility Service at) https://www.uclh.nhs.uk/OurServices	Dept of Rheumatology, RNOH Stanmore, Brockley Hill Stanmore HA7 4LP (follow guidance for Hypermobility Service at) https://www.rnoh.nhs.uk/our-services/rheumatology

The main reasons for our change in policy are:

1. Many of our patients need the support of their GP or local consultant to continue their management on the NHS having seen us privately. It is better we have established that relationship from the outset, and by their referral to us.
2. Those with private health insurance typically need a referral in order to gain authorisation from their insurer anyway. As such this should not affect them.
3. We have seen a growth in extremely complex cases. We are very familiar with all the systemic issues that might arise in our field of Medicine, but when we feel the main concerns are not in our expertise we reserve the right to decline a referral, and where possible we will advise on the re-direction of that person's care. We feel a letter of referral is the most appropriate way for us to assess this and then advise.
4. We have had patients seek multiple opinions from us within the same service. Whilst we would not deny their right to another opinion, we work as a Multidisciplinary Team, and would prefer to initially review a persons case together first.

We thank you for your understanding.

Dr Hakim, Dr Kazkaz, and Dr Mittal