

Consultant 19

4 May 2011

Dear Sir / Madam

I feel obliged to object to the recent actions of BUPA within the field of Private Medical Insurance(PMI). I believe their unilateral actions are contrary to the best interests of the private patients we serve.

Firstly, they have begun to insist that patients approach them for authorisation to see a particular consultant and often guide patients away from seeing one consultant in favour of another, purely on the basis of cost. This removes the element of choice from the patient in being able to choose the best consultant for their own particular problem. This advice has always, and should, come solely from the GP or personal recommendation from other satisfied patients. It is not for a PMI company to take this decision for a patient,

Secondly, BUPA has placed severe restrictions on the private practice of newly-qualified consultants. This is discriminatory, prejudiced and totally unacceptable. It also severely reduces the choice for patients, and must be stopped.

BUPA does not give large discounts to those patients who are willing to accept a limited choice of hospital venues or consultants whom they can see, and is therefore not providing their clients with the product they are paying for.

I strongly urge you to curtail these [⌘], rather than quality patient care. They are, after all, supposed to be a "Provident" organisation, as suggested by their own name.

Many thanks