

## Consultant 71

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To whom it may concern

I feel that the competition commission should look closely at the information provided by private medical insurers about clinicians.

BUPA purport to provide “find a suitable consultant recognised by Bupa within a specific area or at a particular hospital” on their BUPA consultant guide (<http://consultant-guide.bupa.co.uk/>). Interrogation of this website to find suitable clinicians reveals an undue and heavy bias towards “fee assured” clinicians often directing patients many miles away to clinicians who do not specialise in the procedure requested, are abroad and not practicing the UK or in some cases deceased!” This is a misrepresentation and is unfair and anticompetitive. Clinicians who do not agree with the BUPA “assured fee” arrangements yet who have not charged above the BUPA fee scale are disadvantaged or feel pressurised into joining a scheme that solely benefits the PMI body.

I understand that it is likely clinicians will be required to provide more information about fees activity and outcome to allow better patient choice – surely PM Insurer’s should need to be accurate and non biased as well?