

Consultant 108

27 August 2012

Dear sir,

I wish to contribute some points to help with your investigation of the private healthcare in the UK. I have been a Consultant Surgeon undertaking NHS and independent practice for over 12 years.

I have read the submissions from other consultants on your website and I agree with many of the points made already in particular the near monopoly position of BUPA within the healthcare market. BUPA has over 40% of the PMI market and uses this power to distort the market to the detriment of patients, providers and the provision of private healthcare in the UK.

One of the deficiencies of the UK healthcare sector compared to other countries is the lack of small individual speciality clinics which can provide competition to the larger hospitals. The reason for this is that no business plan can withstand the removal of BUPA recognition which can occur without explanation or right of appeal. Most doctors cannot justify taking on the financial risk of building and running a clinic when future earnings are so uncertain. The same must go for smaller healthcare providers and, in my opinion represents, the main barrier to entry for newer, smaller healthcare provider groups into the UK healthcare market.