

Consultant 119

5 September 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

I am submitting evidence of BUPA's unfair use of their dominant market share and [REDACTED].

I am a consultant Cardiologist and head of dept at [REDACTED]. I have been a consultant since [REDACTED] and am on the specialist register with the GMC ([REDACTED]).

I have also been engaged in private practice since [REDACTED]. In February 2012 BUPA wrote to me in order for me to sign up to an agreement to "provide outpatient diagnostics services" This would reduce fees due to me by something like 40% so I asked by Email and in writing for clarification. None has been forthcoming. I am still a BUPA "fee assured" consultant and partner.

I am currently not allowed to provide these services by BUPA who now refuse to reimburse for a number of investigations. This has also taken the form of patients that I have seen being told to go back to their GP and get a referral to another specialist .The local patients from [REDACTED] have been told to see a consultant who works in [REDACTED] some 40-50 miles away.

The current ludicrous situation means that local GP's have no choice and the local patients also have no choice but to go to [REDACTED], pay for their tests locally or avail themselves of NHS services.

I have ,with colleagues, tried to engage in dialogue with BUPA both individually and via Spire Health to assure them that we do not Co bill.

I am happy to provide additional information if needed.