

## Consultant 148

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I am an NHS and private consultant. I wish to highlight an improper and worrying trend recently encountered with BUPA.

Non-medical personnel directing medical investigation & treatment:

Patients are being given permission to follow treatments according to protocols drawn up by non-specialists in the relevant field. This is bad medicine.

I was asked last week to order a CT scan on a patient to prove they needed treatment for a condition which does not necessarily show up on MRI or CT scan, but from which the patient was suffering. They had a pacemaker so MRI was not possible. I refused as this was an investigation with no beneficial medical outcome but was harmful to the patient. A lumbar spine contains the radiation of 350-500 chest xrays and I was being asked to put a patient through this to satisfy an 'administrative' need. This is immoral, unacceptable and frankly negligent medical conduct, with no medical doctor at the insurer (BUPA) willing to even discuss it with me. After 5 phone attempts my secretary received a message that they would not speak to me.

Open referrals:

This is against the GMC's good medical practice standard which requires all referrals to be Dr to Dr, and for very good reason.

Medicine is a dangerous thing when not conducted correctly.