

Consultant 168

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I feel that recent changes by the insurance providers are not in the interest of patients. Patients have been re-routed to other consultants for opinions, even though they had requested to see me and even though the consultant who they were referred to specialises in a different part of the body. This week a patient who saw me (I am fee assured for their insurance company) was not allowed to have their operation with me as the hospital charged more than another one 50 miles away.

Patients constantly complain to me about increases in their premiums, with reduced choice and coverage, yet the surgeons fees for many of the most common procedures were reduced dramatically recently with no discussion. Trying to do two operations at once, now is called bundling, even if they are completely different and for unrelated conditions and not allowed.

The contract should be between doctor and patient. Doctors need to have the choice of which treatment is appropriate for their patient, and the patient should be allowed to choose who performs their treatment.

If I was to have an operation I would want to have a surgeon that is experienced in the procedure and that has a good reputation. I would not want to be seen by someone who does not even specialise in the region of the body just because they charge £20 less for a consultation or charge a fee that hasnt increased for 15 years.