

Consultant 190

8 December 2012

Dear Competition Commission,

I am writing to raise my concerns about the restriction of competition and fees control within the private healthcare market.

I am a new consultant radiologist I has started a private practice in the last [X] years at [X] different private health providers.

Private practice in radiology needs expensive equipment for imaging which is usually only affordable and available in the private hospitals. This left the private practice of radiologists under the mercy of Private Health Providers and PMI companies.

Generally we were stopped from billing the patients for reporting on images instead we get a set fee dedicated by the hospital where the radiologists are practicing. These fees are fraction of what the private hospital charge the patient to diagnostic imaging investigation. The fees of radiologist have been reduced over the years few years before I qualified as a radiologist. For sure this was partly because the PMI company reduced payment.

An example of radiologist fee of Healthcare provider company: CT scan of abdomen and pelvis with a total cost to patient between £800- 900 I get paid £111 regardless of its complex nature.

There is a set fee of £10 for plain film reporting while patient get charged anything from £90 to £150.

For NHS choose and book patient coming where were paid £3.39 for reporting plain hip x-ray. I found that very offending and refuse to report any more on those fees. These fees are offending the profession and will eventually lead to lower quality of healthcare.

To have our independent business or diagnostic imaging service then we would be under the mercy of PMI company. They would also dedicate our fees.

I hope you will take these points into consideration when investigating this matter.