

Consultant 219

11 March 2013

I write following interaction with BUPA. I am a BUPA partner and have agreed to charge BUPA set rates for surgery. This avoids an excess for my patient.

Last year, BUPA lowered all their prices for surgery without discussion so that the price for a hysterectomy is now £619. This would over an hour and a half operation, a daily visit to my patient in hospital for the five days and any complications within 30 days. There has been no discussion of the fees, and none is allowed.

This year BUPA have introduced a scheme of outpatient partners, with a reduction in all outpatient fees. This has meant a reduction in my scan charge from £170 (which includes the room rental of £15 and hire of the machine £40) to £100. There was no discussion. There was no recognition of my subspecialist accreditation. There was no recognition that my scan is superior to that of a general department and is essential when planning complex surgery. I have been de-recognised by BUPA for performing scans. BUPA have notified my patients that "we do not pay charges for out-patient diagnostic tests, we do not expect to see a charge for this". [✂].