

**Consultant 217**

12 March 2013

Dear Sir or Madam

I wish to raise my concern about the practice of BUPA. The company de-recognised some cardiologists last summer. The venture was rolled out under the guise of quality but it is about reducing payments for non invasive tests, typically echocardiography. I specialise in echo in the NHS & hold multiple qualifications. I provided BUPA with details of my place of work & machine capability but I refused to sign the new terms. I now find patients are being directed to private cardiologists, who have signed up to their lower fee structure, but who do not undertake the specialised work e.g. stress echo & are also being informed that I should not be doing the echo. This is of huge concern for patients.