

Consultant 245

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I am a consultant [redacted] surgeon. In addition to my full time NHS practice I have a small private practice in Leeds. There are two private hospitals in Leeds - the Leeds Nuffield Hospital and the Spire Hospital, Leeds. With the exception of AXA PPP, the private medical insurance companies will pay for treatment for their insured members at either hospital.

For a number of years PPP have been reluctant to authorise treatment of their insured members at the Leeds Nuffield Hospital on the grounds that the Spire Hospital is their "preferred provider". Earlier this week they declined to pay for treatment of one of their insured members ([redacted]) at the Nuffield Hospital.

A medical practitioner has to seek admitting rights to practice at a private hospital. I have admitting rights to the Nuffield Hospital. I do not have admitting rights to the Spire Hospital. Consequently, I am not able to treat [redacted] because PPP have declined to meet the costs of treatment at the Nuffield Hospital.

The policy of AXA PPP is undoubtedly driven by costs. As a direct consequence of their restrictive policy my private medical practice (ie business) is prejudiced. I am wondering if this constitutes a breach of the competition regulations ?