

Consultant 6

10 September 2013

Private Medicine report

Dear Ms Hawes, in response to requests from FIPO, and to add my voice to others, I have recently seen a patient with a complex medical problem as a second opinion, spent a considerable amount of time working out what the problem was and arranging referral to other experts I had confidence would be able to help, but she was informed by her insurer that she could not come back to see me, since they did not support the hospital at which I practise, though her initial consultation was apparently covered. She would have had to make up the financial shortfall herself for any future care.

This led to someone who had specifically chosen, with their GP, a particular consultant, being constrained by their insurer to start again with another consultant at a different hospital, which is not medically sensible, and is a clear restriction of patient choice.