

Consultant 16

16 September 2013

Dear Miss Hawes

I write to you to assist in your investigations of PMIs

I am a consultant ENT Surgeon and have been in post for [✂] years. I have seen a number of derisory practices carried out by PMIs over the years but one that stands out is as follows.

A patient consulted me in a private hospital and used their private medical insurance. They had an ear problem and after investigation it was necessary to perform a Modified Radical Mastoidectomy. Prior to doing so the patient asked me if the operation could be performed on the NHS. I asked why and she told me that if it was, the PMI would pay the patient £1200 for her to do so. The patient then asked her GP to re-refer her to me at my NHS base and I saw her once again in my NHS clinic and she was added to my operating waiting list. She then had her operation as an NHS patient and was under my care.

I felt that this was a less than ideal situation but I had no choice in the matter.