

Consultant 35

4 October 2013

Dear Inquiry Manager

I am a consultant oncologist working at Harley Street at Queen's in Romford, Essex, a facility managed by HCA.

I am aware that there has been a lot of interest in the press recently relating to the Monopolies Commission inquiry into private health care. Private health care providers have come under increased scrutiny and a great deal of criticism. I wished to make it clear that for the record HCA run a first class service and the commitment that they have to privately insured patients in financial and organisational terms has been far greater than the oncologists at Queen's Hospital originally anticipated when HCA were first introduced to them. In particular and to name a few examples, the provision of a RMO dedicated to the small in-patient unit despite the fact that the Trust had originally intended to provide junior level support to the unit, the ability to see a patient, have the blood tests back within an hour and deliver chemotherapy shortly thereafter, and finally the introduction of the first Rapid Arc radiotherapy machine providing state of the art radiotherapy demonstrate that HCA are willing to go the extra mile in providing exemplary health care to their oncology patients.

These are but a few examples and I would be happy to provide further evidence, if requested.