

20 September 2013

Private Healthcare - Publication of Provisional Findings and Remedies Notice

Thank you for sharing details regarding the CC's publication of its Provisional Findings in the Private Healthcare market investigation.

The CC's Provisional Findings raise issues relating to geographical location, market concentration, information asymmetries and potential barriers to entry into the market. We note positively that there are no suggestions that registration with CQC presents a potential barrier to market entry. CQC has no regulatory remit in relation to geographical location or market concentration but the proposed remedies to improve information asymmetries are of interest to us as a regulator and in particular if:

- improvements assist us in taking action to ensure the quality and safety of services,
- they will benefit public safety / outcomes for people who use PH facilities
- they contribute to an effective market (for example, by better assisting consumers to choose services) but also if
- they contribute to regulating market behaviour (competition and concentration)

With regards to the proposed remedies that you said the CC would be particularly interested in CQC's views on, we would be supportive of the information remedies (6 and 7). As we discussed during the course of the investigation, CQC currently has access to relatively little information that relates to Private Healthcare compared to some of the other sectors that it regulates.

Kind regards

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