

Consultant 42

4 February 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a Consultant Rheumatologist at London Bridge Hospital. With respect to the recent media coverage of the Competition Commissions proposals for private healthcare, I would like to go on record as saying that HCA Healthcare have provided world class facilities for the patients who have a choice but choose to come to London Bridge Hospital.

As part of a group led by an internationally renowned expert, The London Lupus Centre is unique. There is no other private centre globally specialising in this life threatening condition. No other facility globally can provide the depth of expertise in this condition, which this unit provides. This has been made possible by the management and staff of HCA Healthcare. The unit has expanded and we see patients who come from all over the world. These patients come to London Bridge Hospital for a very good reason. They trust the London Lupus Centre, London Bridge Hospital and HCA Healthcare to deliver the very best care

HCA Healthcare has driven an agenda for progress and innovation. From the introduction of new techniques, the Investor in People awards, to audits and governance, to support for patient charities, London Bridge Hospital can be proud of its ongoing concern for patients and their standard of care.

The London Lupus Centre has benefitted from the support of HCA management and staff. This co-operation has provided educational benefits with the acclaimed "Ten Topics in Rheumatology" lecture series so GP's can manage their complex patients more effectively now being hosted at The London Bridge Hospital. Management at HCA has been core to helping us currently develop educational videos for patients to access via new media such as YouTube. Management and clinicians have listened to patients needs so that rather than waiting for blood tests and results, phlebotomy services run all day every weekday. Patients are provided with rapid access to imaging and diagnostic tests. The co-operation of clinical staff and management means that many diagnostic tests are carried out on the same day for patients at The London Lupus Centre. Inpatients benefit from the RMO service so medical cover is of high quality and continuous.

There are several Healthcare providers in the private healthcare market currently. London Bridge prides itself – and rightly so – in progressing the care of patients knowing full well, as I do, that patients can easily go elsewhere. I commend the care and forward thinking which London Bridge Hospital – and its current owners, HCA Healthcare - provide.