

Consultant 56

6 February 2014

Dear Sir

Private-healthcare-market-investigation/provisional-final-report

I was disappointed to note that there was nothing in your recent report that looked closely into the means by which the larger PMI's namely BUPA and AXAPPP have exploited their monopoly status in essentially 'bullying' patients and providers equally to forcefully accept inferior health cover and contracts. To give you an example I was referred a patient who needed specialist surgical procedure which I provide, only to be told that he could not have this consultation with me as I was not a 'Premier Consultant' although my charges were within the recommended limits provided by the PMI. They had surreptitiously added on another level of restrictive contract usually forced upon newly qualified surgeons. This practice is unfair and certainly anti-competitive and will adversely affect patient care and consultant morale. I urge you to please investigate this matter. There is enough evidence on the social media such as doctors' forums on doctors.net.uk which highlights this corporation malpractice.

Thank you.