

Consultant 54

6 February 2014

Sirs

Provisional decision on remedies on private healthcare

With regard to Consultant investment as equity stakeholders (suggested up to 3%), I think it is important to remember that major private network hospitals often don't have the capital to spend on large pieces of equipment necessitating external investment and Consultants should probably not be excluded from offering financial backing within your guidelines.

Also, Consultants can offer considerable 'Added Value' in enabling the introduction of such equipment into the local healthcare market particularly for rare resource such as PET CT scanner ie competition is good and sometimes the local market is reliant on such Consultant investment to achieve this.

Finally, in such cases, I think it commendable that such joint ventures including consultants with an equity stake self-refer themselves to the competition commission *a priori* to seek guidance and advice in working towards 'approval' of such a scheme. They should not be deterred or look for 'avoidance' mechanisms but rather look to work with the Competition Commission.

I commend your work to date which is welcomed by 'smaller' stakeholders like Consultants who want to engage in achieving a more competitive environment in private healthcare.
Well done!