

Consultant 92

5 February 2014

Dear Mr Witcomb, Ladies and Gentlemen

It was with immense disappointment that I read your most recent report.

It is beyond my comprehension how you could have not addressed actual problems within the Private Healthcare Sector which we are facing on a daily basis and which affect patient care in the most adverse manner. I shall highlight the following points:

1. BUPA is actively interfering in patient care, not only by diverting patients away from consultants of their or the GP's choice, but to so called cheap consultants, irrespective of these consultants expertise or even sub-specialties.
2. BUPA is even attempting to divert patients who are already receiving treatment from a consultant, where surgery is required, again to so called consultants of BUPA's choice, not of the patient's choice.
3. BUPA is even preventing patients from being reviewed after they have undergone a procedure and telling patients when their next review appointment should be.
4. BUPA is forcing young consultants to sign up to restrictive contracts with capping of fees to a ridiculously low level and should they not co-operate, they recognition would be refused.
5. BUPA is bullying consultants who have been practicing for many years to either accept BUPA fees or have their recognition removed.

All the above points are well documented and I am sure they are all in your possession.

Therefore, I cannot comprehend how all this could have been completely ignored by the Competition Commission. After all, we are dealing with patient care which, I repeat, is being hugely jeopardised.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to review these problems carefully as these are problems faced by hundreds of highly recognised consultants who will find it increasingly difficult to give BUPA insured patients the care they deserve.