

COMPETITION COMMISSION ("CC")
PRIVATE HEALTHCARE MARKET INVESTIGATION
SIMPLYHEALTH GROUP LTD ("SIMPLYHEALTH")

RESPONSE TO PROVISIONAL DECISION ON REMEDIES

Simplyhealth is supportive of the Provisional Remedies set out by the CC. Simplyhealth, as a key market stakeholder and an active participant in the investigation, believes that the remedies could represent a comprehensive solution that is both reasonable and practicable in addressing the identified detrimental effects to funders and patients.

Simplyhealth is particularly encouraged to notice the remedies aimed at improving the quality and transparency of information, which it specifically highlighted to the CC. In this regard, Simplyhealth urges the CC to ensure that the remedy will fully deliver to the expectation of patients and other stakeholders. Simplyhealth looks forward to working with the appointed organisation that will collate and publish the private healthcare market outcomes.

Simplyhealth welcomes the remedy requiring consultant fees to be presented to patients in a standard prescribed format which, again, it believes will aid patients in making informed decisions about their care.

Simplyhealth is also pleased by the fact that the CC accepted the view of insurers who had submitted that a remedy in relation to tying and unbundling of hospitals would have been impractical and could have resulted in increasing costs in the market. Simplyhealth also supports the remedy in respect of consultant incentive schemes, as this will further ensure that patient need remains paramount in treatment decisions.

Simplyhealth would suggest the CC set clear guidance and timescales in publishing the final Remedies, thereby enabling patients to have a clear and realistic expectation and allowing for the market to plan and prepare appropriately for timely implementation.