

Pricing Consultation
Department of Health
Room 229
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS
Via email pricingconsultation@dh.gsi.gov.uk

**Health Policy & Economic
Research Unit**

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Dear Sir/Madam

The British Medical Association (BMA) is an independent trade union and voluntary professional association which represents doctors and medical students from all branches of medicine all over the UK. With a membership of over 150,000 worldwide, we promote the medical and allied sciences, seek to maintain the honour and interests of the medical profession and promote the achievement of high quality healthcare.

The BMA welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation on fair and transparent pricing of NHS services. We agree with much of the approach set out in the consultation but have one observation regarding proposals around the share of supply and weighting.

The suggested share of supply percentage threshold for providers is 51%, but there is no equivalent for commissioners. It is likely that larger commissioning groups will provide the bulk of business for providers in their local area. However, the consultation does not take this into account. If providers are to be weighted according to their share of supply, consideration should be given to weighting commissioners according to the share of business awarded to providers.

We hope this submission will be of use and look forward to continuing a constructive dialogue with the Department of Health in the future.