

Private Healthcare (Industrial Report) - UK - March 2014

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"The private healthcare market faces a year full of change, with the provisional remedies proposed by the Competition Commission following its two-year investigation into the sector potentially marking a shift in the balance of power from private hospital operators to private medical insurers."

- Angus Handley, Research Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

- How has falling demand for private medical insurance affected private hospitals?
- What impact will the Competition Commission's investigation have on the market?
- Is legislation bringing NHS and private care closer together?
- How can insurers broaden the appeal of private medical insurance?
- What role does the private sector have in delivering NHS care?

The private healthcare industry has been through a difficult period, with soaring healthcare costs leading already squeezed private medical insurance policyholders to downgrade or cancel their cover. Private hospitals now find themselves in a situation in which the NHS is increasingly important to their business, with almost 30% of their revenue now coming from the NHS; a proportion that looks set to only increase in the future. However, the growing provision of NHS care by the private sector, combined with new legislation designed to encourage private provision in NHS hospitals, poses a key problem to the private healthcare industry, as any blurring of the boundaries between private and NHS care could diminish demand for private healthcare.

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