

Private Healthcare - UK - 2023

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This report looks at the following areas:

- The elongated impact of COVID-19 on private healthcare and how providers and patients have reacted to market conditions and the issues facing the public sector
- How the sector has been impacted by the cost of living crisis and the changing role of self-pay and PMI funded treatments?
- The changing role of the private sector in delivering NHS services
- Consumer attitudes and opinions on private healthcare

The well documented continued difficulties with waiting lists within the NHS are creating strong conditions for the private healthcare market with the restrictions on growth primarily arising from capacity and the cost of living issues. Nonetheless, the uncertainties surrounding the timing of treatments, combined with the length of those waiting times are encouraging both increased private medical insurance take-up and growth in the self-pay market.

In 2022, some 272,000 in-patient admissions were self-pay admissions, a strong 37% above the level seen before COVID-19. It would appear that the self-pay sector is gaining major market share, but the proportional importance of self-pay actually fell in 2022.

The government announcement on 4 August 2023 identified increased use of the private sector to tackle the NHS backlog. This includes opening eight privately-run diagnostic centres as well as using new rules to make it easier for the NHS to purchase care from the private sector.

In combination, these factors are offering growth to the sector, and this in turn is attracting growing private equity investment in the sector that comprises some 90 providers including hospitals, clinics, diagnostics and imaging and urgent care. There are reported to have been 150 private equity deals in the UK healthcare sector since 2021.



"The private healthcare market is growing strongly on the back of the continued issues with waiting lists impacting the NHS. Moreover, arrangements with the NHS are further growing the demand factors despite the cost of living crisis and the strong inflation within healthcare."

– Terry Leggett, Principal Analyst

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- Association of Medical Insurers and Intermediaries (AMII)
- British Healthcare Trades Association (BHTA)
- Federation of Independent Practitioner Organisations (FIPO)
- The Independent Doctors Federation (IDF)
- Independent Healthcare Provider Network (IHPN)
- London Consultants' Association (LCA)
- The Private Healthcare Information Network (PHIN)
- Trade magazines
- COVER
- Health Business
- Health & Protection
- Health Service Journal
- Hospital Times
- Trade events
- England's Premier NHS Procurement Event
- Healthcare Efficiency Through Technology (HETT)/Commissioning in Healthcare (CIH)/Procurement in Healthcare (PIH)/Cyber Security in Healthcare (CSIH) Expo
- Safety & Health Expo
- Private Acute Healthcare Conference

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