

The process of **PRIVATISATION**
is **TRANSFORMING OUR NHS** into a
FRAGMENTED SYSTEM of
COMPETING BUSINESSES. Privatisation
adds **VAST** administrative **COSTS** –
estimated at **TEN PERCENT** of the total **NHS**
BUDGET – **OVER £10 BILLION** –
WITHOUT ANY EVIDENCE
that it improves **efficiency** or **patient care**

This card is offered free to improve
your health – and save the NHS –
by

NHS Consultants' Association: NHSCA
www.nhsca.org.uk

Keep Our NHS Public: KONP
www.keepournhspublic.com

NHS Support Federation: NHSSFed
www.nhscampaign.org

London Health Emergency
www.healthemergency.org.uk

This card supports the views of the **British Medical Association**
(BMA) the **Royal College of Nursing** (RCN) and of
Midwives (RCM), the **Health Unions** (UNISON, UNITE,
GMB, MPU) and many other professional and social
organisations united in their opposition to NHS privatisation.



**NON-GOVERNMENT
HEALTH WARNING!**
**PRIVATISATION
IS BAD FOR YOUR
HEALTH!**



TELL THEM WHERE **YOU** STAND!

Keep this with you at all times. Use it when you:

- > **Write** to your MP/local Council/mayor/
the minister for health
- > **Contact** your local paper/radio/TV etc.
- > **Attend** your local PCT/Health Scrutiny
Committee public meeting
- > **Ask** your GP to support the British Medical
Association campaign:
www.lookafterournhs.org.uk
- > **Disturb** the peace of those who refuse
to believe a government would ever do
anything so scandalous as privatise the NHS

The great progress and promise of our NHS is being undermined by progressive patchwork privatisation. This damaging process of privatisation has:

1. **Converted the NHS into a market**, driving NHS Hospitals and GPs into competition with each other instead of working together to care for patients
2. **Compelled the NHS to 'contract out' clinical work to private companies**, some working in Independent (Private) Sector Treatment Centres, costing more cash and working less well than NHS clinics can
3. **Forced Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to allow private health corporations to take over GP surgeries**. Companies interested first and foremost in making a financial profit from treating the sick can now replace your local doctors.
4. **Obliged hospitals and local health bodies** to invite private companies to take over key NHS services. No longer just car parking, cooking and cleaning, they must invite private bids for core clinical services like bone and brain scans, physiotherapy, psychology and even surgical centres and local GP surgeries.

5. **Appointed private sector companies into key NHS decision-making seats**. Here they directly influence the spending of vast sums of public money to commission NHS services, some from private sector companies. This creates huge potential for favoured deals and conflicts of interest. A *Competition and Cooperation Panel* acts as enforcer, making sure NHS managers don't resist these privatisation drives.

Public opposition to NHS privatisation is perfectly expressed by the inspiring words of the Election Manifesto that brought the Government to power in 1997:

“ Our **fundamental purpose** is simple but **hugely important: to restore the NHS** as a **public service** working cooperatively for patients **not a commercial business driven by competition.** ”