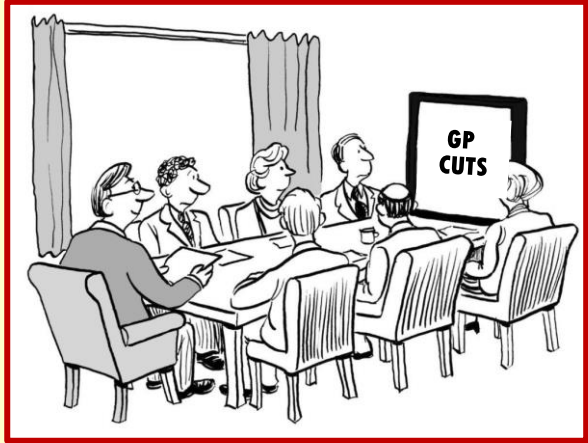


DOCTORS NOT CALL CENTRES!

Here in North West London a new and worrying arrangement to see your GP is to be introduced if Health bosses have their way.

A sort of virtual **call centre** is to be set up in each local area, staffed by various health care workers – **but only one doctor**. The idea is that when a patient rings up to see their GP the same day, the call would be diverted to this call centre, called a '**Hub**'. A receptionist will answer and give the call to someone in the Hub which would probably not be the doctor. It might be a



practice nurse, a 'physician associate' or someone else. If they then decide you actually do need to see a doctor, you might have to travel somewhere.

This scheme was not worked out by doctors but by Management Consultants KPMG - a firm that specialises in cutting costs. When the scheme was publicly announced by the North West London Integrated Health Board (ICB), there was a big outcry by local GPs and members of the public. We rightly believe that a patient needs to be properly assessed first by a qualified and experienced doctor and preferably one who has treated you before; otherwise there is much greater risk of misdiagnosis, which could be serious.

Protests were so strong that the ICB has now been forced to introduce this Hubs plan more slowly – with of course an increase in public relations and spin doctoring. So the battle to stop these call centres continues.

Please visit us at
www.ealingsaveournhs.org.uk and on
Facebook to receive our free newsletters
or to get involved.
We are a branch of Keep Our NHS Public.



HOW PRIVATE HOSPITALS UNDERMINE THE NHS

The NHS should be there for all who need it, rich or poor. We all do need it at some time, though some of us will be luckier than others.

Politicians who claim that private hospitals somehow take a burden off the NHS are plain wrong. The truth is that **private hospitals actually undermine the NHS** in several ways.

- These profit-making health companies only take the most straightforward and less risky work. The more difficult and riskier work is left to the overworked and underpaid NHS staff.
- They employ clinical staff who have already been trained by the NHS at a cost of billions to the taxpayer.
- Every time the NHS sends patients to private hospitals it costs extra.

Yes OF COURSE our Company is here to support the NHS



Private health companies are just Big Business and they heavily lobby politicians – in fact many MPs hold shares in them. But they are definitely **bad news for the NHS** and an expensive drain on public resources. We find it shocking that the Labour Party now seems to be copying this disastrous Government policy.

EALING'S NEW COMMUNITY DIAGNOSTIC CENTRE

We all know there is fantastic work going on in the NHS, despite the underfunding. Here in Ealing Hospital a new Community Diagnostic Centre is opening. GPs will be able to refer you and your family there directly for vital tests, checks and scans. The overcrowded A&E is to be extended too!

After all the years of campaigning to save Ealing Hospital, it's really great to see investment going ahead.