



Four big US health companies are amongst those bidding to take over the organising and purchasing of local NHS care. We believe that these companies will maximise their profits, but at the expense of patient care and of the UK tax payer.

**Their record is worrying, so why invite them into the NHS?**

*The Guardian 18/10/07:* **United Health** agreed with insurance regulators in 36 states to pay out \$20m in fines for failures in processing claims and responding to patient complaints. That follows a string of other fines over delayed payments, Medicare fraud and 'cheating patients out of money' in New York State.

Other major US health corporations, such as **Aetna** and **Humana**, have also faced repeated fines for shortchanging doctors, using unlicensed agents, payment delays, failures to give information to claimants or fraud. In one case of a cancer patient who was refused payment for a failed experimental treatment its own doctors recommended, Aetna was ordered to hand over \$120m damages after it was found by a California jury to have committed 'malice, oppression and fraud'.

**The government is encouraging more private compaies to take over running of the NHS:**

- i **This is a huge waste of public money.** Private companies will hugely increase NHS costs as they have done when providing operations and building NHs hospitrls.
- ii **Care will suffer.** These companies exist to make a profit. They have built their business on avoiding the costs of patients with complex health needs. We will should all worry that care may not be there when we need it and that we may end up paying for it.

**Send this to your MP**

Dear .....

I am opposed to the plan to commercialise the NHS and pass over NHS functions to profit seeking corporations. I support a publicly-funded, publicly provided NHS.

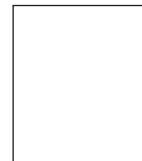
Name .....(signed).....

Address .....

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For more information see [www.nhscampaign.org.uk](http://www.nhscampaign.org.uk) and [www.keepournhspublic.com](http://www.keepournhspublic.com)



To

..... MP

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA



# US private health assault on our NHS

*Who do you think you are kidding...*

