



## **NHS Support Federation**

### **News Release**

Immediate: 4 November 2008

### **2008 NHS top-ups a victory for the individual, but what about the rest?**

Reacting to the plan to allow patients to top-up their NHS treatment with private care the NHS Support Federation said:

"This is a victory for individual patients just trying to get themselves the treatment they want, often in tragic circumstances. But the obvious question is what about the patients with similar illnesses that can't afford to go private.

"The NHS was born out of the need to give everyone equal access to healthcare. Safeguards to protect these principles are essential. How far can we go without this defining principle of the NHS becoming meaningless in reality.

"NICE will come under pressure to reassure the public that NHS patients are not being denied access to effective treatments. And if treatments are held back because of their cost it should only be after the public have had their say.

"We need NICE to continue to help ensure NHS treatments are safe and effective. Their role in establishing affordability is less well understood by the public. The NHS itself needs to be more accountable. We cannot off load this responsibility."

Paul Evans, director NHS Support Federation

The NHS Support Federation is an independent organisation that works to promote a comprehensive NHS, with equitable access and active public involvement. Our supporters and affiliated organisations are drawn equally from the health profession and the general public. More: Paul Evans - 07798922199/ [paul@nhscampaign.org](mailto:paul@nhscampaign.org)/ [www.nhscampaign.org](http://www.nhscampaign.org)