

14 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AA

tel 020 7222 0975

fax 020 7222 4424

email info@fipo.org

web www.fipo.org

FIPO

federation of independent
practitioner organisations

CONFIDENTIAL

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To the President/Chairman of all FIPO Membership Groups and Associations

Dear Colleague,

Please find enclosed a Newsletter from FIPO which contains a great deal of important information for your consultant membership. Although this is slightly long there are a number of very major issues developing in the independent sector not least of which is a further rather brazen attack by PPP on the independence of the profession. As you will see, PPP is proposing a new schedule of fees and new terms and conditions which will apply to newly appointed consultants (and some established consultants). In essence this means that newly appointed consultants will be obliged to adhere to their schedule of fees failing which they will not be recognised. We have strong suspicions they wish to roll this out to all established consultants before too long.

Fee reimbursements will, of course, be affected adversely but this is not our main concern. We have tried to stress within the Newsletter the wide ranging implications of this for patient choice, professional independence and continuity of care. The trainee organisations are extremely upset by this matter and will be making their own statement on this. We are trying to rebut this PPP approach in several ways.

There are other issues laid out in the Newsletter including the approaches by some of the other insurers to try and package fees in an attempt to break the contract between the patient and the consultant. This is being done either through third party brokers or directly to the profession. This again is not something which we believe is in the best interests of the patient.

We would be grateful if the FIPO Newsletter and the attached questionnaire could be circulated to your consultant members. We are sending it to you in Adobe format and if it can be sent out directly as such with whatever covering message you may wish to attach to your members that would be most helpful. Your representative on the FIPO Board may help with this and I would just caution you not to make any anti-competitive statements. You may merely wish to refer this through to your membership with a note that this is a statement from FIPO about changing events in the independent sector. Some groups are mailing this out with their own Newsletters and others may do this by email. We are very happy to discuss any issues with you and thank you for your help in this matter. It is a matter of some urgency and we hope you can process this fairly quickly.

Yours sincerely,



Geoffrey Glazer
On behalf of the FIPO Board