

SAY NO

- **TO PRIVATE COMPANIES TAKING OVER OUR DOCTORS' SURGERIES**
- **TO NEW SUPER CLINICS WHICH THREATEN OUR LOCAL DOCTORS**

Sixty years after the NHS was set up its very future is under threat. Private companies are being encouraged to bid for local doctors' surgeries. These companies hope to cash in on the huge profits to be made from the government's plans.

In Camden, three GP practices are now run by UnitedHealth, a multi-billion dollar private health insurance company based in the USA where it has been prosecuted for defrauding patients.

Instead of spending money on improving existing GP services, NHS Camden has published plans that could lead to more local doctors' practices being swallowed up by multi-national private companies.

- **Keep our GPs local**
- **Keep our doctors in the NHS**

A new style competitive "super health centre" is planned in Hampstead Road and private companies have been invited to bid to manage it. Not only might it be run privately, but it could also threaten the closure of existing GP practices as these would have to compete for patients and resources. Surgeries in Regent's Park, Camden Town, Somers Town and Bloomsbury are particularly at risk.

We believe these plans must be stopped and that our health service is worth fighting for.

We are asking everyone who cares about the NHS to say NO to NHS Camden's plans. Have your say in the consultation. Say NO to a GP-led health centre (question 8). To get the consultation document phone 020 3317 2884/2887 or see <http://www.camden.nhs.uk/downloads/Primary%20and%20urgent%20care%20strategy.pdf>.

Camden patients have already taken to the streets to make our voices heard in opposition to privatisation of surgeries. Campaigns like ours are beginning to force local NHS authorities to retreat. NHS Camden was not able to go ahead with its plans for one of these clinics at UCLH.

If you believe that private profit has no place in our health service

Now is the time to tell the government and NHS Camden that "Enough is enough!" and make sure that all our GP services stay in the NHS.

Camden Keep Our NHS Public is a campaign group opposed to privatisation of the NHS. For information about forthcoming meetings and what you can do contact us by phone or email, or see the website.

Tel: 020 7383 3092 or 07946 480 261; email: defendcamden@nhs.gov.uk; web camdenkeepournhspublic.org.uk

WILL YOU ANSWER 4 QUESTIONS NHS CAMDENDON'T DARE ASK?

These were questions some Camden doctors suggested that NHS Camden should be asking. Please take the time to answer and return them, with your name and address.

1. Would you like brand new GP surgeries at your local GP-led Health Centre or polyclinic hub, even if

- Your own practice might disappear
- It might be run by Virgin or an American-owned company

Yes?

No?

2. If you want to talk to a doctor about an ongoing or serious problem concerning yourself or your family, would you prefer:

- To see the doctor of your choice at a location near to you?
- or
- To travel further to see a doctor or nurse who does not know you but who can see you more quickly?

3. Would you prefer:

- Your existing GP surgery to move to a GP-Led Health Centre, polyclinic hub or hospital?

or

- Your surgery to be improved or expanded where it is now?

4. In a time of limited resources would you like your money spent on:

- New GP ventures that have no evidence behind them to show they will improve patient care?

or

- Improving existing GP practices in Camden?

Please return to NHS Camden, St Pancras Hospital, 4 St Pancras Way, NW1 0PE