

Private health care is just a tale of backhanders and e...

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Oh, for the wonders of private health care! [The Guardian has just reported:](#)

The country's largest private hospital groups will have to sell up to 20 hospitals and end incentive schemes that encourage doctors to choose particular private providers for patient treatment in return for cash, a landmark investigation by the competition watchdog has recommended.

The [Competition Commission](#), which began its investigation of the private healthcare sector in April last year, found significant instances of anti-competitive behaviour in the market, and criticised four of the five biggest operators for generating excessive profits.

So much for the efficiency the market can supply. It's actually a tale of backhanders and excessive profits.

Now there's a surprise.