

House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Date as postmark

Dear Baroness Thornton,

Integrated Care Systems and the Health and Care Bill

I am writing to express my concern about the government policy of 'integrated care systems'. While I appreciate that my experience of care would be better if it is better coordinated, I am worried about the way the government is doing this. I am concerned that integrated care systems will be used to ration the care that patients have access to and reduce the quality of the care we received in order to cut costs and make savings. In particular, the drive to save money could lead to more digital care and remote/telephone care when this is not suitable for the patient.

I am also concerned that it will bring about more privatisation in the NHS, for example by allowing private companies to sit on Boards which could lead to private companies being involved in making decisions about the health care we receive. In addition, private companies would have access to confidential patient information.

I would like to ask you and other members of the Shadow Health Team to speak out very publicly about the dangers of the Health and Care Bill as I am worried that many people are not aware of it. Given the numbers of each Party in the House of Commons, it is likely that this Bill can be defeated only by raising the awareness of the public of its dangers and by encouraging the public to express their anger with and opposition to the Bill.

Yours sincerely,