

Why we need more nurses – not less!



**We all know that nurses are underpaid .
But we should also be aware that
they are overworked.**

Chronic understaffing, caused by bad management has led to an unprecedented number of avoidable deaths. We should blame the managers, not the nurses! 76% of nurses reported not having enough time to care for their patients. According to the Royal College of Nursing there are nearly 20,000 nursing posts currently unfilled and 4000 have been deleted since 2010.

What 's needed?

4 patients to one nurse

Research shows that a ratio of 4 patients to one nurse leads to better outcomes for patients.

They've been working like this in California since 2004. The result is calculated to be a saving of £37,400 to the healthcare system for EACH additional nurse!

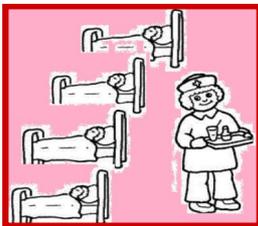
How?

- It's due to a reduction in healthcare complications, improved discharge rates and reduced overtime rates. (Ref: www.4to1.org.uk)

How can it be paid for by the NHS?

Organising privatisation schemes costs the NHS between £6 million and £24 million so far

All the private companies will take NHS money.



Why don't we just have more nurses?

That's what makes for better health care!

California, of all places, has proved it!

Produced by Lambeth Keep Our NHS Public

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When is an ambulancelance not an ambulance?

Essentia, Savoy, Riverside –

What do they mean to you? Names of hotels or maybe a perfume? I discovered when I needed to use the Hospital Transport Service to go to Guy's and St Thomas' recently. I was collected in what looked like an NHS ambulance but

the workers were not NHS employees.

These are the names of some of the private companies that run Hospital Transport for Guy's and St Thomas' for profit.

Does that make you feel safe?

"What difference does it make?" you may ask.

One of the private company workers told me:

1. They are paid less than the London Living Wage and work 9 hour shifts. But these may end up much longer if they have to take patients home to the South coast or even as far north as Dundee.
2. Their first aid training is not up to date.
3. They have to check the safety and road worthiness of their ambulance each morning and get repairs done if necessary.
4. They could work every hour of the day as no-one checks up on their wellbeing or their fitness to drive vulnerable people around.

This worker had tried to raise a concern with management and had been told: "If you don't like it, you can leave."

Two of the workers could barely speak English and I worried how they would have coped with someone who needed to explain any special handling they required. They got me through the front door but departed swiftly before checking I could get up the flight of stairs to my flat. Two other workers were very different and did make sure that I managed the stairs and was properly settled in my flat before they left.

Surely it would be better for workers and patients if all ambulance and hospital transport workers were trained to a common standard and paid the rate for the job negotiated by the relevant union!

From a Lambeth Resident October 2013

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DODGY DEALS! THE EU/US FREE TRADE AGREEMENT



Bad news for the NHS

Many US owned companies already own chunks of the NHS.
For example, a company called Hospital Corporation of America (HCA),
just got the funding for specialist brain cancer treatment,

Why? -when it used to go to University College Hospital in London,
the UK's leading centre for this work?

Now we're going to get the EU/US Transatlantic TradeInvestment Partnership- (TTIP)

**a long name for some dodgy dealing by global
corporations!**

What will it do?

Liberalise! - open profit-making opportunities to international
companies across the US and the EU and increase their legal
rights, whilst reducing the right of governments to control them.

Regulatory harmonizing -so that the EU and US become more
similar, harmonising standards e.g. on environment and food
safety, to the lowest and most corporate friendly denominator.

Enabling companies to sue governments for the loss of any
future profits!! - making privatization too costly to reverse.

This international trade agreement is being promoted
by transnational companies for their own benefit.

It must be stopped!



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serco

gets its slice of the NHS cake



Have you seen **GSTT** on signs in
Guy's, St Thomas' or King's College Hospitals?
Looks like GSTT spelt wrong but it's much worse than that!
It's a joint business venture set up
between Guy's, St Thomas', King's College and Serco
for pathology services, including blood
and other diagnostic tests essential in modern medicine.

More than £3m of NHS money (our taxes) plus a £13m loan,
went to set up an *improved cost effective efficient service.*

Is all this really a good use of our money?

Here's what went wrong !

1. Test results weren't done quickly enough.
2. The company lost experienced staff and shut a specialist unit.
3. There was a 28% staff turnover, low staff morale and loss of training opportunities .
4. In the end some samples even had to be sent to Birmingham and Cardiff for analysis!
5. Finally GSTS was subject to a complaint to the Care Quality Commission in June 2012.

Also

The service lost £6m in 2011

It claimed it made a profit in the last financial year
-well -sort of! -
£300,000, after the main Serco company put
£1,300,000 in the till!-



We can safely say Pathology is not in good hands.

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Sainsbury's take over Hospital Pharmacy

Guy's and St Thomas' have effectively sold their outpatient pharmacy to Sainsbury's Plc.

The move was designed to save money for the NHS through V.A.T. exemption.

It also meant that the hospital could get money from renting out the space for the pharmacy.

What really happened?

Pharmacy staff were allowed to submit a bid when the process was already three years down the line, but the staff bid didn't really stand a chance.

That's because the managers of GSTT, who had been working on the issue for three years already were looking for a proposed reduction in staffing by 17 and an increase in income from renting the pharmacy space, as well as shifting the burden of VAT costs on prescriptions.
(For various legal reasons hospitals have to pay VAT and private companies don't!)

How is it working out?

1. There is a great deal of confusion on the St Thomas' site over the requisition of drugs.
2. There is considerable staff dissatisfaction.
3. At the end of the day on Friday 11th October there was still waiting time of 24 minutes for outpatients



at the Sainsbury's Pharmacy

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The sign of things to come?

Privatisation reaches the GP service



A glossy card dropped through my letterbox recently promoting a **new private GP service** called Private GP Battersea. It's based at 87 Northcote Road, SW11 and covers Clapham, Balham, Battersea and Wandsworth.

It consists of 5 GPs and promises same day appointments for as long as you need and never to use agency or locum doctors.

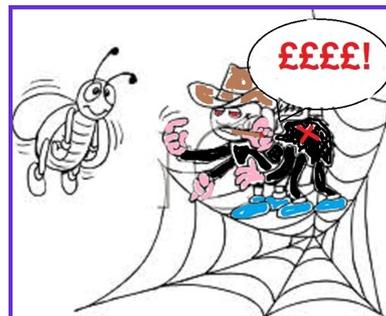
The cost?

**£990 pa for 2 adults and children under 18!
This covers a total of 10 consultations and 3 home visits a year for the family.**

However it also advises you to register with your NHS GP as well, presumably to cover you when you've exhausted your number of visits, or for complicated health problems which they prefer not to deal with!!! But it does offer assistance in claiming fees from your private insurance and advice in booking appointments in private hospitals.

Beware of the steady creep of privatisation and the move towards an insurance based health system!

From a Clapham Resident October 2013



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How is Lambeth NHS going private? By “OUTSOURCING”.

At Kings College Hospital

There are 15 private companies doing hospital work.
These companies want to make a big profit.
They are always cutting costs to get new contracts. So standards of care drop.

It's called “**The Race to the Bottom**”



At Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital

These are some of the outside companies:

But they've also made their own! It's called



Essentia can make a profit for the Trust.
How?

By selling to other hospitals.
It could earn £15m and £20m from offering advice
£10 and £15m for management and between
£100m and £150m for services—including the ones
it sells to itself!



**So Guy's and St Thomas'
Foundation Trust
is a business as well as a hospital!**

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