
From: dr laurie poon [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 10 June 2021 5:16 PM
To: Exemptions
Subject: NIB Honeysuckle health managed care

Dear Mr Pappas,

Here is my letter voicing my objections to NIN Honeysuckle Health Cigna's bid for exemption to start a managed care health organisation:

Dr Laurence Poon FANZCA MBBS Ptce NBE (Dallas) Post Dip Periop Echo (Melb)
Anaesthetic Services
Suite 5.8 The Epworth Centre
32 Erin Street
Richmond VIC 3121

To Mr Michael Pappa
Analyst Competition Exemptions
Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
Level 17
2 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Re Draft Exemption AA1000542 NIB/Honeysuckle Health Pty Ltd to operate a buying group to collectively negotiate and manage contracts with healthcare provider in Australia

Dear Mr Pappa,

I am writing this to make known my objection to Honeysuckle Health with NIB/ Cigna Managed Care making a bid for US Managed Care in Australia. I understand that CignCorp is one of the largest Managed Health Care Organisations (HMO) in the United States.

I am an anaesthetist and have spent years training to become an expert consultant anaesthetist which means that I make decisions together with my patients about the best anaesthetic for them. Whether this be a general "full" anaesthetic with volatile gases or TIVA "Total Intravenous Anaesthesia", whether this is combined with a major neuraxial block "epidural or spinal block" or with a peripheral regional block for pain relief or whether regional anaesthesia with or without sedation may be appropriate. This is done in concert with my patient noting their medication allergies and past experiences together with the requirements of their particular surgery. My focus is what is best for the patient: "Patient-centred care".

This is not controlled by a distant bureaucrat or health "expert" who does not know the patient nor their circumstances which can occur with managed care. Managed care is full of horror stories where lifesaving treatments are denied as "experimental" or delayed causing deleterious consequences. Managed care is about profitability for shareholders i.e. "Profit-centred care" rather than "Patient-centred care".

To introduce such a profit-driven managed health care scheme into Australia which currently enjoys a very high standard of Private Health Care is a step too far which will damage the health system and outcome for Australians. Just look at the US with 20 million plus not able to be insured! Our patients want to be given the best treatments and outcomes which they can currently do rather than be told what they can and cannot have.

DO NOT LET MANAGED CARE ARRIVE AND DESTROY OUR HEALTH SYSTEM. I implore you to reject Honeysuckle/NIB Health and their ilk.

Yours Faithfully,

Dr Laurence Poon FANZCA MBBS Ptce NBE (Dallas) Post Dip Periop Echo (Melb)