

GP CRISIS: WHO'S TO BLAME?

**Fund NHS GPs,
not Virgin Care or Centene!**



**KEEP OUR
NHS PUBLIC**

GP surgeries are struggling to give patients the care they need, with wait times high and a huge backlog of overdue care. GPs have worked flat-out during the pandemic, providing record numbers of appointments while also rolling out the successful vaccination campaign – but now the Government and parts of the press are scapegoating GPs for problems caused by a decade of under-funding and undermining of General Practice:

- There is a shortage of at least 2500 GPs nationwide. Hundreds of GP surgeries have closed in recent years, while demand for appointments rose.
- Staff have been left without basic supplies, ranging from PPE shortages to the recent national shortage of blood test vials.
- The running of many GP practices has been taken over by private firms. These firms extract profits by cutting care, reducing staffing and breaking the long-term personal connection between patients and their GP.

Centene / Operose: the latest symptom

The merger of two private firms, AT Medics and Operose, earlier this year has taken GP privatisation to a radical new level, with one profit-making private firm now running 58 practices covering half a million patients nationwide.

Worse still, Operose is a branch of US insurance giant Centene Corporation, which has paid out tens of millions in fines and legal settlements over allegations including fraud, mismanagement and dangerous under-staffing.

Take action

Take action now to fund GPs properly, sack Centene and stop privatisation:

- A patient at a practice taken over by Operose/Centene is fighting the takeover in court through a Judicial Review. Support her Crowdfunder for legal fees and follow the news about the Judicial Review here: <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/stop-centene-takeover-stage2/>
- Write to your MP and your local councillors (you can find details at <https://www.writetothem.com/>) to demand increased funding of General Practice and to state your opposition to privatisation of GP services.
- Find and join a local health campaigning group. You can find a list of Keep Our NHS Public groups at: <http://keepournhspublic.com/local-groups/>

Find out more at www.keepournhspublic.com