

From The Times  
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## **The results of privatising sections of the NHS with no concern for the quality of the service**

Sir, The unfortunate Dr Ubani's prescribing error (report, [May 5](#)) is yet another illustration of the result of privatising sections of the NHS with no concern for the quality of the service provided. The Government offered GPs the option of giving up their out-of-hours service in return for the surrender of a derisory amount of money. Not surprisingly, many of them took up that offer. Equally unsurprisingly, the Department of Health then discovered that the service actually cost a lot more to provide than it had thought (because the GPs had been doing it for next to nothing). The result is that it now has to contract the service out to commercial providers who cut corners, with the inevitable outcome.

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