



Eclipse
Corporate Finance

Healthcare M&A Review
Q3 2025



1. Overview

Q3 2025 overview

Deal volumes

- Q3 saw stable healthcare deal activity across the traditionally quieter summer period
- We expect to see a short-term increase in deal completions in October and November as vendors look to lock in current tax rates ahead of the Autumn Statement, before returning to more normal levels

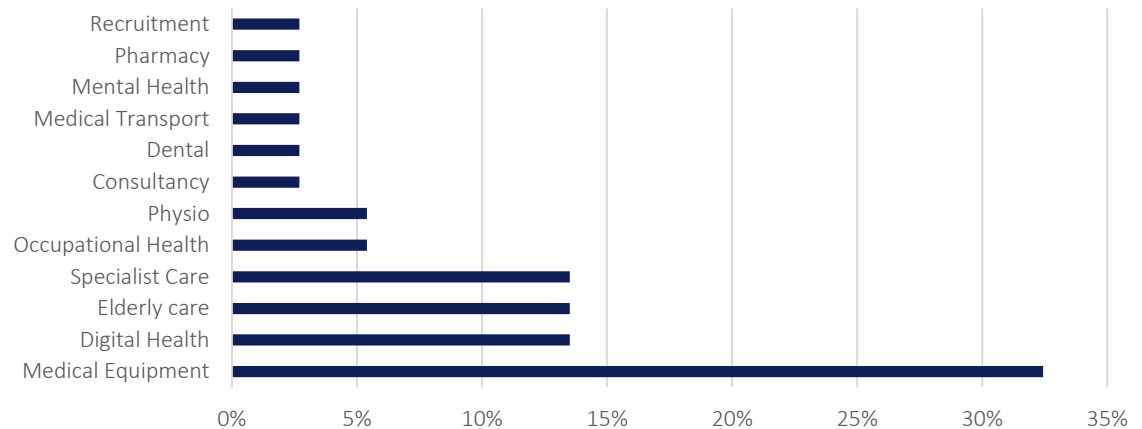
Sub-sector activity

- Q3 saw an unusual spike in medical equipment deals, accounting for a third of transactions during the period
- These included manufacturers and distributors across surgical instruments, mobility, optical and orthotics
- Specialist and elderly care both continued to show strong deal activity as new investors enter these markets
- Digital health activity also remained robust, with transactions across social care software, mental health and digital therapeutics

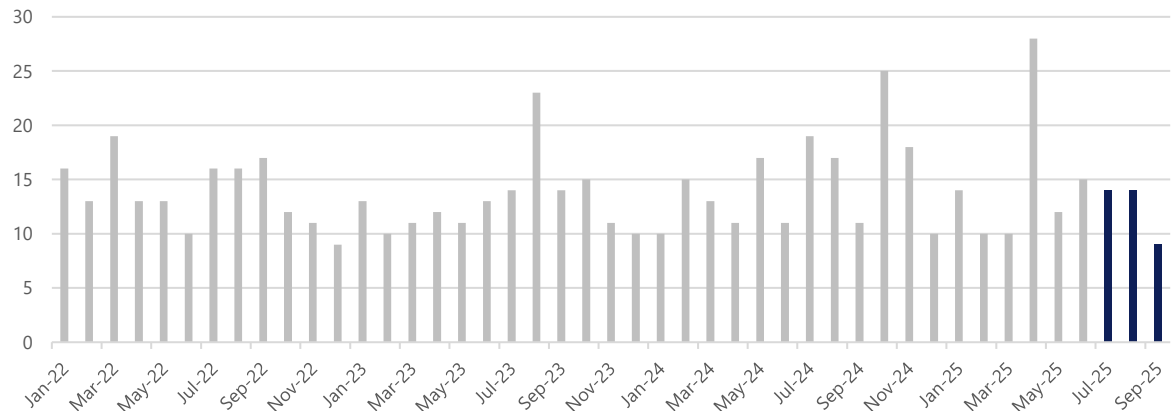
Private equity involvement

- As ever, private equity was a major driver of transactions in the sector, with platform investments and bolt-on deals accounting for over 50% of total deal volumes
- A lack of quality investment opportunities continues to be a challenge for healthcare-focused funds
- The period saw new platforms for Bridgepoint (myDentist), Warburg Pincus (Health Partners), Rhône Capital (DHG/Invacare), Tiger Infrastructure (EMED), Rockpool (Talarmade), Bestport (Sano Physio), BGF (CWC Group & Opus Safety) and Foundation Partners (Select Healthcare)

Split of deals by sector



Deals by month





2. In focus sectors

In focus: Diagnostic imaging

Diagnostic services, particularly imaging, are at the centre of some of the biggest pressures and opportunities in UK healthcare. Volumes have climbed relentlessly, with more than 2.5 million tests now carried out each month – over double the level of 15 years ago. An ageing population, growing use of screening and a stronger policy focus on early detection mean demand will only continue to rise.

The system is struggling to keep pace. The UK has nearly 2,000 fewer consultant radiologists than required, alongside shortages of radiographers and sonographers. In 2024 alone, the NHS spent £216 million on outsourced reporting, a record level, underlining the extent of the challenge. Government initiatives such as Community Diagnostic Centres and new neighbourhood health hubs are designed to expand physical capacity, but these centres can only succeed if the workforce exists to staff them.

Against this backdrop, the independent sector has become critical in supporting the NHS. Mobile and modular units provide additional scanning slots, clinical insourcing helps trusts make better use of infrastructure, teleradiology extends the available radiologist pool by allowing scans to be reported remotely, and community contracts extend provision beyond hospital sites.

These fundamentals have made the UK diagnostic imaging market one of the most active areas for M&A and private equity. Alliance Medical was acquired by iCON Infrastructure in a £910m deal, Medica was taken private by IK Partners, and EQT-backed Evidia entered the UK through its purchase of 4ways. CVC DIF bought medneo UK to expand mobile scanning, while G Square has been building a platform through Diagnostic Healthcare, adding both Venturi Cardiology and ECG On-Demand. Foresight and MTIP have backed Hexarad, and international players such as RadNet and Apollo Radiology have also entered the market.

With strong demand, ongoing staffing pressures and a clear need for private sector support, diagnostics will remain a highly active space for both strategic buyers and investors.

Notable Transactions



In focus: Dental laboratories

Acquisitive Operators



£1.3bn

size of the UK dental lab
market by 2030

6%

CAGR in the UK
dental labs market

> 1,000

dental labs in the UK in a
highly fragmented market

The UK dental laboratory market has been undergoing a quiet evolution. Once highly fragmented and locally focused, it is now attracting significant investment and consolidation. For owners, particularly those who have embraced digital workflows and built reputations for quality and reliability, the pool of potential buyers has widened significantly.

Several groups are leading the charge. ALS Dental, backed by Ansor, has become the UK's largest network through a series of acquisitions and heavy investment in technology. MediMatch, a digital-first platform which also has a presence in Europe, recently completed a management buyout supported by Queen's Park Equity. Rosemont Dental Group continues to partner with high-quality independents, often keeping founders involved and sharing in future growth, while Corus, one of Europe's major consolidators, has signalled its intent in the UK with the integration of Byrnes Dental Laboratory and further bolt-ons since.

Behind these moves is a set of powerful dynamics. Demand for dental prosthetics and appliances is resilient, fuelled by NHS and private dentistry, an ageing population and rising cosmetic expectations. At the same time, technology is reshaping the economics of the sector. CAD/CAM milling, 3D printing and scanner-led workflows are now essential to deliver consistency, speed and scale. Smaller independents face mounting pressures around compliance, investment and staffing, making alignment with larger platforms increasingly attractive.

Across Europe, the trend is even more pronounced. Corus, backed by Careventures and Quadrum Capital, has made more than 85 acquisitions covering Spain, the UK, France, Benelux and the Nordics. Oakley Capital has created Liberty Dental Group, combining sizeable networks in Germany, Benelux and Norway. These platforms are standardising digital workflows and raising expectations for turnaround times, materials traceability and case management.

For UK laboratory owners, the lesson is clear - well-run independents with strong digital foundations and loyal client bases are in demand. Whether seeking a full exit or a growth partner, preparation is key, and those who invest early in systems, data and people will be best placed to benefit.

In focus: Physiotherapy

The UK physiotherapy market is undergoing a period of structural change, as demand pressures and private capital combine to drive consolidation across the sector.

Rising NHS backlogs, an ageing population, and increasing levels of workplace absence linked to MSK conditions have created strong demand across three distinct segments:

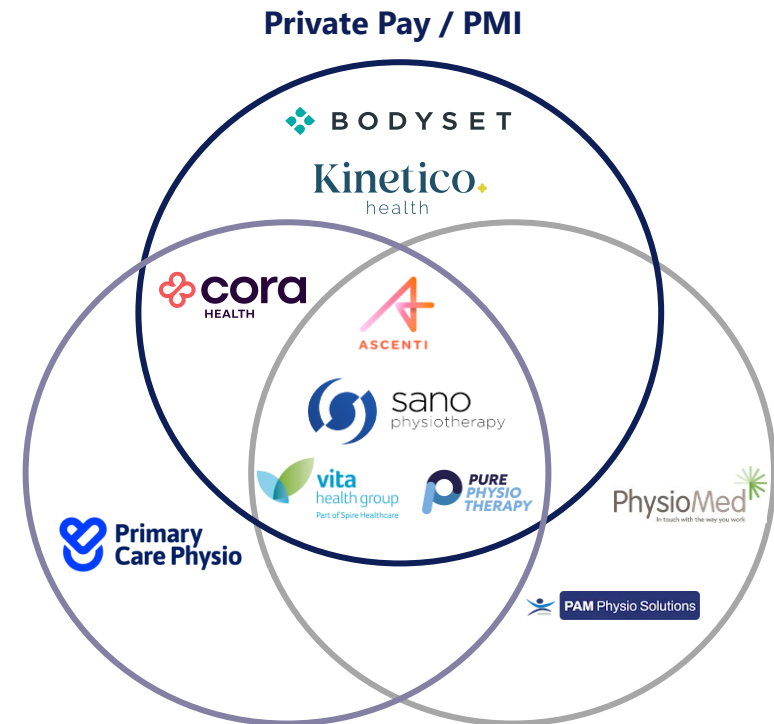
NHS Services, including First Contact Practitioners (FCPs) and community MSK contracts. These models are relieving pressure on primary and secondary care by embedding physios directly into GP practices or providing outsourced physiotherapy services for referred patients in community settings. Larger operators such as Cora Health, Ascenti and Pure Physiotherapy (now part of ExamWorks) have established scale through multi-year NHS contracts. The merger of Connect and Healthshare in 2024 created Cora Health, one of the largest independent providers of community MSK care in the UK.

Occupational Health Physiotherapy, where employers are taking a more proactive approach to workplace MSK health. With over 23 million working days lost each year to MSK conditions, the commercial rationale is clear. Despite this, no operator has emerged as a clear market leader in occupational health physiotherapy. Sano Physiotherapy, recently acquired by Bestport Private Equity, has built a strong position in the segment through its acquisition of Back in Action, alongside its NHS and private work.

Private Pay and PMI-Funded Physiotherapy, where patients are turning to self-funded options or private insurance in response to long NHS waits. While this market remains highly fragmented, it is starting to consolidate. Bodyset, backed by Osmond Capital, is expanding primarily through the organic opening of new clinics, while Kinetico, supported by York Street Capital, is actively acquiring private physio practices.

Ascenti, backed by bd-capital, has pursued a hybrid model across all three segments, combining organic growth with a series of acquisitions, most of which have been made via its private clinic platform, Six Physio, including deals for Bodies Under Construction and Chelsea Home Physio.

Investor appetite is being driven by the opportunity to build scalable, tech-enabled providers that can deliver multi-channel services across NHS, employer and consumer payors. With demand rising and the benefits of scale increasingly apparent, physiotherapy is fast becoming one of the more active areas of UK healthcare M&A.



>23m
working days lost
each year to MSK
conditions in the UK

>20m
people in the UK
are living with an
MSK condition

>30%
of all GP consultations
in England relate to
MSK issues



3. July snapshot

Notable sector deals: July 2025



Rockpool's investment into TalarMade

- An interesting investment for Rockpool, backing TalarMade, a provider of orthotics and pressure care products serving both NHS and private sector healthcare providers
- The business offers its own-brand medical devices, distributes products for third parties, and provides clinical services within the NHS
- Growth plans centre around expanding into new geographies and pursuing selected strategic acquisitions
- The deal marks continued interest in the prosthetics and orthotics (P&O) market, with G Square-backed AM Healthcare Group having grown significantly through a buy-and-build strategy



Acquisition of EMED Group by Tiger Infrastructure

- A successful exit for Cairngorm Capital, selling EMED Group, the UK's leading specialist healthcare transport provider, to Tiger Infrastructure Partners
- Cairngorm acquired E-Zec in May 2021 and merged the business with ERS Medical in 2023 to create EMED
- During this period, the business grew from 11 contracts and 75,000 patient journeys per month in 2021, to over 176,000 journeys per month today
- The patient transport sector has seen strong deal activity in recent years, with other transactions including RCI's acquisition of Prometheus and Ambulnz (the UK arm of DocGo) acquiring Falck's UK NEPTS business



Acquisition of mydentist by Bridgepoint

- A significant deal in the dental sector, with Bridgepoint acquiring a majority stake in mydentist, providing a full exit for Palamon Capital
- mydentist operates more than 500 dental practices across the UK. With over 3,500 dental professionals and more than 2,500 surgeries nationwide, it is the UK's largest dental provider by revenue, practices and clinicians
- Bridgepoint aims to support the business by expanding its clinical team, in addition to investing into digital transformation and cutting-edge equipment
- Palamon acquired ADP in £136m in 2009, partnering with Carlyle in 2010 to acquire competitor IDH and form the largest dental corporate in the UK and subsequently buying out Carlyle in 2021



Spire Healthcare's acquisition of Physiologic

- Further expansion in the physio market for Spire with the acquisition of Physiologic, an operator of multiple clinics in the Thames Valley area
- Employing 30 highly trained team members including 20 physios, Physiologic operates three clinics in Henley, Reading and Windsor
- The deal enhances Spire's position within the physio market following its previous acquisition of Vita Health and provides the opportunity to deliver an integrated patient journey by driving diagnostic and orthopaedic surgery referrals from Physiologic to local Spire hospitals
- The deal highlights continued consolidation of the physio sector, with Spire, Ascenti, Sano and Kinetico remaining active acquirers of small groups

Healthcare market activity: July 2025

Private Equity Activity

Sub-sector	Target	Acquirer / Investor	Exiting PE
Dental	Mydentist	Bridgepoint	Palamon
Medical Equipment	Talarmade	Rockpool	N/A
Medical Transport	EMED Group	Tiger Infrastructure	Cairngorm Capital
Occupational Health	Opus Safety	BGF	N/A
Pharma Services	FutureMeds	Phoenix	N/A
Specialist Care	The Providence Projects	UKAT (Sullivan Street)	N/A

Venture Capital Activity

Target	Description	Lead Investor	Investment
Bloodtest.co.uk	Digital diagnostics platform	Undisclosed	£3m
Centauri Therapeutics	Immunotherapy drug discovery	CARB-X	\$5.1m
Cumulus Neuroscience	Tools to support the development of neurological treatments	Whiterock	£3.25m
Numan	Digital health group	Big Pi Ventures	\$60m
Ultromics	AI-powered cardiology diagnostics	L&G	\$55m

The background of the slide features a dark blue, monochromatic image of a modern building with a glass facade. The building is situated on the right side, and its reflection is visible in a body of water in the foreground. The overall aesthetic is clean and professional.

4. August snapshot

Notable sector deals: August 2025



Bestport's investment into Sano Physiotherapy

- A significant deal for Sano Physiotherapy, with Bestport Private Equity supporting a secondary management buyout
- Sano offers physiotherapy services to a wide range of clients, including the NHS, corporates, medico-legal providers and private patients
- Founded in 2010 by Matt Taylor, the business has seen substantial growth, driven by a combination of organic expansion and strategic acquisitions
- The deal represents a strong return for incumbent investor, Solingen Private Equity, who backed Sano in 2017 and supported growth in recent years
- The investment from Bestport will support continued expansion, with a particular focus on acquisitive growth



Backing for CWC Group from BGF

- A notable investment from BGF into Northern Ireland-based specialist care provider, CWC Group
- Founded in 1983 by sisters-in-law Monica Byrne and Imelda McGrady, CWC provides domiciliary, residential nursing, and disability care across seven locations in Northern Ireland
- Now operated by Monica's daughters, Aisling Byrne and Shauna Byrne, the investment will be used to support CWC's acquisition of new sites and development of its specialist care services
- The deal is BGF's first investment into a female-led business since it committed £300m to scaling female-led enterprises over the next five years



Mindler's acquisition of ieso Digital Health UK

- An interesting acquisition for Mindler, with the addition of ieso Digital Health UK, an online talking therapies service available to over 20 million adults through the NHS
- Ieso holds contracts with a third of ICBs in England, in addition to a national contract in Scotland, having collaborated with the NHS for over a decade
- The acquisition will combine Mindler's digital therapy platform with ieso's video and typed cognitive behavioural therapy and AI-powered clinical tools
- The deal highlights continued interest in scalable mental health platforms from both private equity and corporate acquirers



Acquisition of Mable Therapy by Keys Group

- Another strategic acquisition for G Square-backed Keys Group, adding Mable Therapy to the group
- Mable is a speech and language therapy provider that uses an innovative platform to offer online speech and language assessments to children and young people
- The business works with schools, multi-academy trusts and local authorities, as well as directly with families to deliver these services
- The deal follows Keys' recent acquisition of ADHD360, with Mable joining the group's health division as it continues to broaden and diversify its service offering

Healthcare market activity: August 2025

Private Equity Activity

Sub-sector	Target	Acquirer / Investor	Exiting PE
Clinical Services	Mable Therapy	Keys Group (G Square)	N/A
Elderly Care	Five care homes from Graham Care Group	Hartford Care (Foundation Partners)	N/A
Pharma Services	Panthera Biopartners	LDC	BGF Gresham House
Physio	Sano Physiotherapy	Bestport Private Equity	Solingen Private Equity
Medical Devices	OrganOx	Terumo	BGF
Specialist Care	CWC Group	BGF	N/A

Venture Capital Activity

Target	Description	Lead Investor	Investment
Duality Healthcare	Private GP and primary care provider	N/D	£4.5m
Ensilitech	Technology for the storage and transportation of vaccines	Eos Advisory	£4.5m
Neurovalens	Non-invasive neurotechnology	Clarendon	£6.0m
Wanda Health	Remote patient monitoring platform	EMV Capital	£0.9m



5. September snapshot

Notable sector deals: September 2025



Agentis Health's acquisition of Living With

- Agentis Health Group has launched with backing from LDC and its first acquisition, Living With
- Formed from within Ashtons, the new platform combines digital, therapeutic, and diagnostic expertise
- The Group will operate through three divisions: Agentis Healthcare, Agentis Therapeutics, and Agentis Diagnostics
- Living With, alongside Ashtons' Virtual Hub and Primary Care Services, will sit within Agentis Healthcare
- The platform aims to help the NHS improve management of long-term conditions and reduce system pressures



Acquisition of OLM Systems by Civica

- Civica has acquired OLM Systems, a UK-based provider of cloud software for social care
- OLM Systems develops digital case management tools that help local authorities deliver and manage social care more effectively
- The deal strengthens Civica's GovTech capabilities, expanding its presence across social care and local government services
- OLM's team and technology will integrate into Civica's existing social care portfolio, enhancing support for councils and care providers
- This move reflects growing investment in digital infrastructure to improve efficiency and outcomes in social care delivery



Management buy-out of Select Healthcare

- Foundation Partners and Deer Capital have backed Brett Bernard in a management buyout of Select Healthcare Group
- Select operates 32 homes providing elderly and specialist care services across the UK
- The deal secures leadership continuity and supports growth under management's ownership
- It increases Foundation Partners' UK care investment to over £500m and takes the footprint to c.3,000 beds
- The transaction adds specialist care and advances the goal of a fully integrated national care platform



Compass' acquisition of Consult Search & Selection

- Compass Recruitment Solutions (CRS) has acquired Consult Search & Selection, a specialist recruiter in life sciences, med-tech and healthcare
- The acquisition expands CRS' sector expertise and global reach, enhancing its ability to deliver end-to-end recruitment solutions for high-growth healthcare businesses
- Consult's leadership team will remain in place, ensuring continuity and supporting further growth
- This marks CRS' second acquisition since Cow Corner's investment in March 2024, following the purchase of executive search firm Carter Schwartz, now rebranded as Compass Carter Osborne

Healthcare market activity: September 2025

Private Equity Activity

Sub-sector	Target	Acquirer / Investor	Exiting PE
Digital Health	Living With	Agentis Health (LDC)	N/A
Digital Health	OLM Systems	Civica (Blackstone)	N/A
Elderly Care	Belvedere Manor Care Home	Lovett Care (HIG)	N/A
Medical Equipment	Redditch Medical	Schülke & Mayr	Traditum
Recruitment	Consult Search & Selection	Compass Recruitment Solutions (Cow Corner)	N/A
Specialist Care	Select Healthcare Group	Foundation Partners & Deer Capital	N/A

Venture Capital Activity

Target	Description	Lead Investor	Investment
Cyted Health	Non-endoscopic diagnostic platform for GI health	EQT Life Sciences	\$44m
Enhanced Genomics	3D multi-omics platform	BGF Parkwalk	\$19m
MyWay Digital Health	Diabetes self-management platform	Foresight	£3m
NRG Therapeutics	Drug discovery for neurodegenerative diseases	Dementia Discovery Fund	£50m
Patients Know Best	Personal health record platform	DNV Ventures	N/D
Salient Bio	IBD diagnostic test	THENA Capital	£2.35m
TERN Group	AI-driven healthcare recruitment	Notion Capital	\$24m



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