Eclipse Corporate Finance

Healthcare M&A Review 2025

1. Overview

2025 overview

Deal volumes

- Deal volumes were broadly flat through 2025, falling short of early-year expectations for a rebound
- Rather than pulling back entirely, acquirers and investors became more selective, with fewer processes progressing and timelines stretching as diligence standards tightened

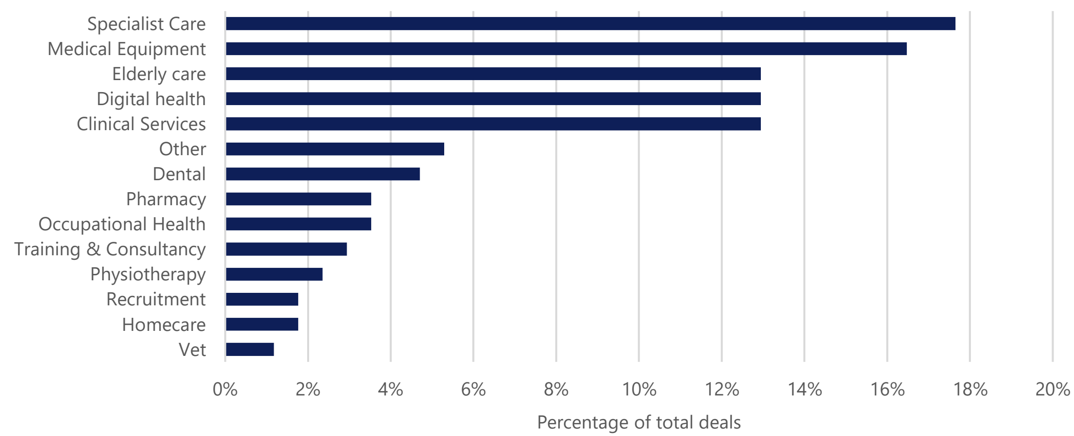
Sub-sector activity

- Specialist care was the most active area of the market, with steady transaction volumes across residential care and supported living for individuals with learning disabilities, alongside growing activity in other specialist areas such as neuro-rehabilitation and dementia care
- Medical equipment activity spanned a broad range of manufacturers and distributors, particularly in essential and repeat-use categories including surgical instruments, orthotics, diagnostics and mobility products
- Digital health deal activity was concentrated in social care and healthcare management software, with more selective investment across EPR systems, remote monitoring, imaging and digital therapeutics
- Clinical services saw strong levels of activity across private hospitals and specialist "ologies", driven by resilient private pay demand and continued outsourcing of services by the NHS

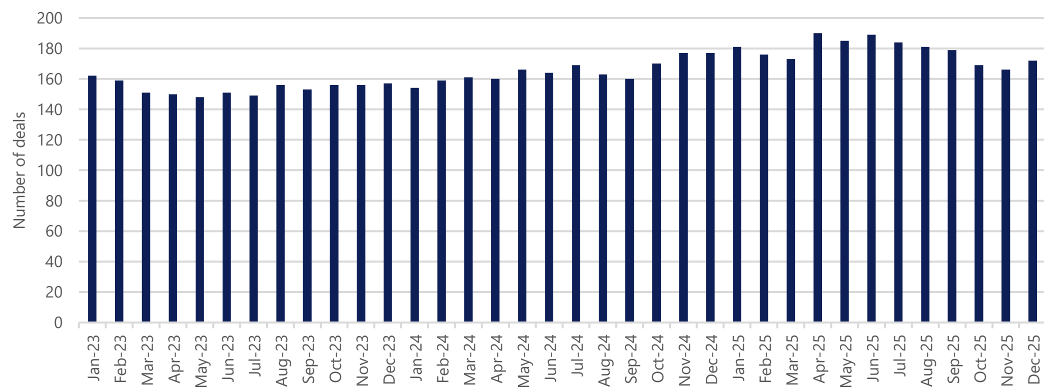
2026 outlook

- We expect 2026 deal volumes to remain broadly similar, with no single macroeconomic catalyst likely to materially shift activity
- Capital remains plentiful, but there is a clear shortage of high-quality, well-prepared healthcare businesses coming to market
- As a result, genuinely strong assets continue to command premium valuations, while average businesses struggle to attract competitive interest

Split of deals by sector



Deal volumes (rolling last 12 months)



All transaction data excludes pharma deals and venture capital investments

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Private equity activity

Private equity involvement

- Private equity was involved in approximately 50% of completed healthcare deals during 2025
- Healthcare remained a core focus for lower-mid-market private equity funds, despite broader macro uncertainty
- Platform investments became materially more selective, with significantly greater emphasis on commercial diligence and market validation upfront

Sub-sector focus

- Medical equipment saw several large transactions aimed at scale and operational leverage, including Rhone's investment into Invacare / DHG and the buy-out of DCC Healthcare
- Care operators increasingly attracted asset-backed investors and REITs, with reduced appetite from traditional PE funds that were previously highly active in specialist care
- Clinical services investment focused on diversified models combining NHS and private pay exposure, with particular interest in scalable, ology-led platforms

What are private equity looking for?

- Clear, defensible market demand supported by strong commercial diligence
- Scalable platforms with sufficient organic growth to deliver returns without the requirement for acquisitions
- Diversified and resilient revenue streams, particularly where NHS and private pay coexist
- Low reliance on founders, with depth in the management team
- High-quality financial information and commercial data

PE platform investments by most active sectors

Medical equipment

bedfont est. 1976
TalarMade Made with clinical excellence in mind
IMS
Taking Care
INVACARE
DCC
DHG Moving Health Forward

Clinical services

OCL VISION
functional GUT CLINIC
AUDIOLOGICAL SCIENCE PREMIUM HEARING AIDS, BELOW MARKET PRICES
HG
sano physiotherapy
CATHEDRAL EYE CLINIC • BELFAST • DUBLIN •

Care

inspire neurocare
HAMBERLEY NEUROCARE
Select Healthcare Group
Avery
fortava HEALTHCARE
CWC Group

Digital health

Lanas
CareLineLive
Person Centred Software

All transaction data excludes pharma deals and venture capital investments

2. In focus sectors

In focus: Occupational health

Key operators & ownership

Operator	Ownership
LATUS	NorthEdge
Health Partners	Warburg Pincus
PAM Group	LDC
Medigold Health	BGF
Optima Health	AIM Listed

148.9m
working days lost due to sickness absence in 2024

£1.5-2bn
estimated size of the UK occupational health market

45%
of workers in the UK have access to occupational health services

The UK occupational health (OH) market continues to expand, underpinned by a growing recognition of the link between employee wellbeing and organisational performance. With only 45% of UK workers currently having access to OH services, the sector presents a significant opportunity for expansion, particularly among SMEs, where provision remains limited.

Valued at £1.5–2.0 billion and growing at c.6% annually, the market is being driven by a convergence of factors: elevated sickness absence (4.4 days per employee in 2024), an ageing workforce (one-third of UK workers are over 50), and a surge in mental health-related issues. Employers are increasingly turning to OH providers to deliver preventative, tech-enabled solutions that support workforce resilience and reduce productivity losses.

This favourable backdrop has fuelled a wave of M&A and private equity activity. Warburg Pincus' recent investment in Health Partners, one of the UK's leading OH providers, follows a string of high-profile deals including NorthEdge's backing of Latus Health and Spire Healthcare's acquisitions of Vita Health, The Doctors Clinic Group and Acorn Occupational Health. These transactions reflect a broader trend of consolidation, as platforms seek to scale, diversify services and enhance digital capabilities.

Government attention on occupational health has shifted since the 2023–24 consultation cycle, with the more ambitious elements of the previous administration's programme no longer progressing. The Occupational Health Taskforce has not reconvened, and proposals around national frameworks, minimum standards or new tax incentives remain at an exploratory stage.

Even so, occupational health continues to feature in wider discussions on workforce participation, long-term sickness and productivity, notably through ongoing references to SME OH subsidy pilots and employer-led support models in Treasury and DWP dialogue. While major reform appears unlikely in the near term, the direction of travel remains broadly supportive of improving access to occupational health, particularly for smaller employers.

As more employers prioritise workforce wellbeing and policymakers maintain a focus on access, the UK OH market is entering a new phase of growth and consolidation. For investors and operators alike, the opportunity lies in building scalable, tech-enabled platforms capable of delivering integrated, high-quality services across both private and public sector clients.

In focus: Private hospitals

The UK private hospital market is being reshaped by a wave of high-conviction investment and consolidation. A series of acquisitions since 2022 reflects a decisive shift towards scale, control and complexity, as investors move to build networks that can meet rising demand from both self-paying and insured patients, while also absorbing increased NHS activity.

Bupa has re-entered the hospital sector for the first time since 2008, acquiring King Edward VII and New Victoria Hospital. These additions will allow the insurer to integrate diagnostics, specialist care, and surgery within its own ecosystem, offering members a faster and more seamless treatment experience. Narayana Health's acquisition of Practice Plus Group's hospital portfolio marks a rare but significant inbound move, giving the Indian operator a UK-wide surgical platform and access to high-volume NHS partnerships.

The London market continues to attract the most attention, particularly from US hospital groups. HCA, Cleveland Clinic, Northwestern, Mayo Clinic and Cedars-Sinai now control or collaborate across almost half of independent capacity in the capital. These groups are importing high-acuity infrastructure, employing consultants directly, and delivering joined-up clinical pathways, challenging the UK's traditional model of private care. Cleveland Clinic is developing a new cancer centre to complement its flagship hospital, while HCA has opened a major new site in Birmingham, operating in partnership with University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust.

Outside London, investor appetite remains strong. Phoenix Hospital Group's acquisition of One Healthcare expands its footprint into Kent and Hertfordshire, while Abu Dhabi's PureHealth has acquired Circle Health's national network of over 50 hospitals. These moves reflect a broader trend towards diversified networks capable of delivering both general and specialist care.

Private medical insurance volumes continue to rise, with over 660,000 insured admissions recorded in 2024. NHS-funded care now represents close to one-third of private hospital income, highlighting the sector's growing role in supporting public capacity. Spire Healthcare's ongoing strategic review suggests that further consolidation is likely, with strategic buyers and financial sponsors both circling. The direction of travel is increasingly clear. Investors are backing providers with the scale, specialisation and digital infrastructure to take on more complex care and deliver it with pace.

Notable transactions

c.£6.7bn
value of the UK private acute hospital market

c.46%
of London private hospital beds now affiliated with US providers

c.75%
of all private hospital revenue generated by the five largest operators

In focus: Custodial healthcare

The UK custodial healthcare market, covering healthcare delivery in police custody suites, prisons and other secure environments, has developed rapidly in recent years. Increasing outsourcing by police forces and the NHS has driven demand for independent providers capable of delivering high-quality, compliant care in complex and tightly regulated settings.

Across England and Wales, police forces spend around £21 million annually commissioning healthcare for detainees in custody suites, although recent contract awards indicate this figure is now rising. NHS England separately funds healthcare for over 80,000 prisoners across 122 prisons, covering primary care, mental health, and substance misuse services. Modern contracts increasingly favour nurse and paramedic-led models, supported by forensic medical examiners (FMEs) on an on-call basis - a structure that improves responsiveness and strengthens clinical governance.

Private equity has been an important driver of consolidation. Literacy Capital's investment in RCI Group (Mountain Healthcare) in 2018 created a leading forensic and custodial healthcare platform, expanded through acquisitions such as Prometheus Safe & Secure, adding secure patient transport and observation services. Ethos Partners' investment in PHL Group has enabled the business to scale its police custody healthcare operations alongside its urgent and elective care services.

The market has also seen repositioning among established operators. HCRG Care Group, which previously acquired CRG Medical Services, has since disposed of the business and its custodial healthcare operations to 4Merit, a new entrant led by an experienced management team from major outsourcing firms. The transaction marked a notable shift, with 4Merit emerging as a credible, clinically focused platform positioned for further growth.

Practice Plus Group remains the UK's largest independent provider focused purely on healthcare delivery within prisons and detention settings, supporting around 41,000 patients across more than 45 sites. Mitie Care & Custody is also a major player, combining large-scale justice and immigration contracts with a healthcare component through its forensic medical services arm.

With specialist operators gaining scale and outsourcing set to continue, custodial healthcare remains a niche but expanding segment of the UK healthcare services market.

Major operators

Practice Plus Group

PHL

mitie

RCI

>£21m

spent annually on police custody healthcare in England & Wales

>80k

prison population in England and Wales across 122 prisons

1 in 3

of the prison population estimated to have a serious drug addiction

In focus: Oncology

The UK oncology market is seeing growing interest from investors and strategic buyers, driven by rising cancer incidence, long NHS wait times and increasing demand for faster access to diagnostics and treatment.

A number of international platforms have already established a strong presence. GenesisCare, despite recent challenges in the US, remains the UK's largest independent cancer care provider with 14 centres. Amethyst, a pan-European radiotherapy group, received investment from Fremman Capital and quickly acquired Telemos-backed Stingray following its successful buy-and-build strategy across Germany and France.

Icon Group, headquartered in Australia, is also expanding in the UK. It recently announced a new partnership with Nuffield Health to develop cancer centres in Brighton, Derby and Warwickshire. This follows its 2024 acquisition of Pharmaxo, bringing specialist pharmacy capabilities in-house to support more integrated delivery of oncology services.

The private sector is also increasingly embedded in NHS infrastructure. HCA Healthcare has partnered with hospitals such as The Christie and Guy's to deliver private oncology services within NHS hospitals. Nova Healthcare in Leeds provides a similar model, integrating private treatment within the Leeds Cancer Centre.

M&A has been a key route to scale, with consolidators like Amethyst and Stingray acquiring single-site centres and regional groups to build national and pan-European networks. Greenfield development remains a feature, particularly in underserved areas, though the collapse of Rutherford Health's UK proton network highlights the risks of speculative expansion ahead of demand.

The opportunity remains significant. Demand is rising, NHS capacity is constrained, and private pay is growing. Oncology is seen as a resilient, high-need area with growing appetite for cutting-edge modalities such as Gamma Knife, proton beam therapy and precision diagnostics.

Whether through acquisition, partnership or targeted development, we expect continued activity in the UK and wider European oncology market as operators seek to build scale and invest in advanced capabilities.

Key UK market players

HCA Healthcare · Amethyst Healthcare · Icon Group · Nuffield Health · GenesisCare · Circle Health Group

>400k
new cancer cases diagnosed each year in the UK

>40%
of NHS cancer patients wait longer than 62 days to begin treatment

30%
rise in annual UK cancer diagnoses expected by 2040, reaching over 500,000 new cases a year

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

Alliance Medical | iCON infrastructure

4ways | evidia

medneo | CVC DIF

HEXARAD | Foresight | MTIP

ECG On-Demand | VENTURI CARDIOLOGY | Diagnostic Healthcare

AMDS | affidea

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:

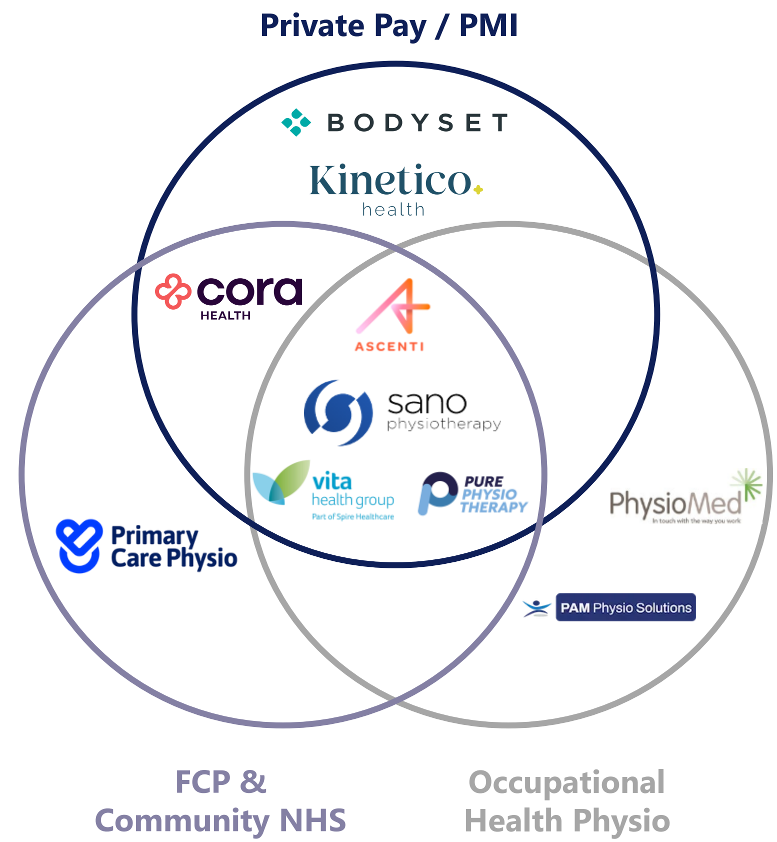
1) NHS Services, including First Contact Practitioners (FCPs) and community MSK contracts. These models are relieving pressure on primary and secondary care by embedding physios directly into GP practices or providing outsourced physiotherapy services for referred patients in community settings. Larger 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.

2) 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.

3) 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 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

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In focus: Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS)

Notable transactions

c.34,000

ARRS staff recruited by PCNs between 2019 and 2023

£186m

additional funding allocated for newly qualified GP roles

>19

different roles, including physios and clinical pharmacists

The Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) has been instrumental in transforming primary care delivery in the UK, facilitating the integration of non-doctor roles such as physiotherapists and clinical pharmacists. These roles have played a crucial part in alleviating pressures on GPs and improving operational efficiency within practices.

A significant contributor to the success of the ARRS has been the emergence of independent providers offering fully managed services. These organisations have simplified the recruitment, onboarding, and administrative processes, making the utilisation of ARRS-funded roles a straightforward decision for GP practices and PCNs. This service model has also attracted considerable investment interest, with notable transactions including ExamWorks' acquisition of Pure Physio and BGF's investment in Primary Care Physio. Similar M&A activity is anticipated in the clinical pharmacy space in due course.

To build on the scheme's success, ARRS funding was extended to include newly qualified GP roles, supported by an additional allocation of £82 million. While this appeared to be a logical step in addressing GP workforce shortages, uptake was limited due to several practical challenges. The allocated funding was often insufficient to cover the full cost of a GP's salary, requiring practices to subsidise the difference - a financial burden many could not accommodate. Additionally, uncertainty surrounding the continuation of the funding beyond March 2025 created hesitancy among practices. Furthermore, the restriction to newly qualified GPs limited the scheme's applicability, as some positions were more suited to experienced practitioners.

In response to these challenges, the 2025/26 GP contract introduces a series of important revisions. The most notable change is the removal of the GP ARRS funding ringfence, allowing PCNs greater flexibility to recruit GPs alongside other roles from a single, unified ARRS budget. NHS England has indicated that up to £186 million in ARRS funding may be used to support GP roles during 2025/26, based on projected demand. However, this amount is not ringfenced, and PCNs are free to allocate funding across all eligible roles in line with local workforce priorities.

The contract also increases the maximum reimbursable salary, alleviating some of the issues practices have faced in subsidising salaries to date. In addition, practice nurses have now been added to the list of eligible ARRS roles, further enhancing the scheme's flexibility and appeal.

Overall, the ARRS has proven to be a highly effective mechanism for supporting workforce expansion in primary care. The recent amendments represent a constructive response to stakeholder feedback and suggest a commitment to ensuring the scheme remains viable and impactful. These developments are expected to drive continued uptake and may catalyse further consolidation within the sector.

In focus: Specialist care

The UK specialist care sector is witnessing significant growth, driven by an increasing demand for services that support individuals with learning disabilities, autism and complex care needs. As the number of individuals requiring long-term care rises, the sector is under pressure to ensure high-quality, person-centred care. This growing demand has also spurred a rise in mergers and acquisitions, as care providers look to expand their services and enhance their ability to meet diverse needs.

Alongside this growth, the sector faces numerous challenges. The complexity of care needs continues to grow, as do workforce shortages. Recruitment and retention issues remain significant, with care providers looking for ways to maintain a skilled workforce. Many are turning to technology to improve operational efficiency and ensure better care delivery, helping to address some of these challenges.

Financial pressures have intensified. The combined impact of increased employer National Insurance contributions and a 6.7% rise in the National Living Wage is estimated to add around £2.8 billion annually to costs across the adult care sector. This financial strain has led providers to call for immediate action to ensure the long-term sustainability of their services. Hopes for relief were dashed when the House of Commons rejected a Lords amendment to exempt social care providers from the NI increase, meaning the changes came into effect as planned.

Private equity-backed firms have become key players in the sector, investing in businesses focused on providing high-quality care. Recent acquisitions, such as Creative Care by Consensus and Outcomes First's adult residential homes by Achieve Together, reflect a broader trend of consolidation as providers expand their geographical reach and service offerings. These transactions emphasise the need for collaboration and alignment of values to ensure the best outcomes for those with complex care needs.

As the sector continues to evolve in response to these challenges, mergers and acquisitions will remain a vital part of the landscape. Providers will continue to seek ways to strengthen their operations, with investment and collaboration helping to maintain the high standards of care that individuals with complex needs deserve.

Notable transactions

Outcomes First Group
Achieve together

inspire neurocare
HAMBERLEY NEUROCARE
Downing

Creative Care
consensus

fortava HEALTHCARE
Downing

£14.5bn
estimated value of the UK specialist care market

c.32%
increase in the cost of care placement for working age and lifelong disabled adults in five years

c.63%
of adult social care spend in England relates to working age and lifelong disabled adults

In focus: NHS community services

As the NHS pushes more care into the community and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) seek cost-effective partners, private equity and strategic buyers are ramping up investment across outsourced NHS clinical services.

Ophthalmology has seen some of the most prominent activity. G Square-backed CHEC (Community Health and Eyecare) has grown rapidly as a national provider of NHS cataract services, opening new sites to improve access and reduce waiting times. SpaMedica, previously backed by CBPE Capital and now owned by Nordic Capital, followed a similar trajectory – scaling fast through a high-volume, outcomes-led model. MidEuropa's successful investment in Optegra and recent exit complement this trend. More recently, however, tariff pressure and increasing scrutiny around private providers selectively targeting higher-margin activity have made the operating environment more challenging.

Other outpatient services have followed suit. 18 Week Support, backed by Summit Partners, acquired dermatology specialist Medical Clinics to diversify away from core clinical insourcing services which have proved more challenging in recent times. Medinet, under Fremman Capital, acquired HealthHarmonie, a Birmingham-based provider of gynaecology and dermatology services, further consolidating the outpatient landscape.

In MSK, the merger of Connect Health and Healthshare to create Cora Health (supported by LDC and BGF) has created a leading provider of physiotherapy, surgical and diagnostic services, offering ICBs a more integrated solution at scale.

Audiological Science received investment from YFM Equity Partners to expand community-based hearing services, while neurodiversity has become one of the most active areas in mental health. QPE's backing of Psychiatry UK reflects a clear shift toward scalable models for ADHD and autism care delivery.

Diagnostics is another hotspot. G Square's Diagnostic Healthcare has made strategic acquisitions of ECG On-Demand and Venturi Cardiology, creating internal referral pathways and strengthening its cardiac diagnostics proposition. Inuvi, backed by Longacre, has similarly expanded through the acquisitions of Express Diagnostics and Physiological Measurements.

Across these sectors, one theme stands out: buyers and investors are drawn to businesses that offer cost-effective, community-delivered services that directly reduce NHS burden. Whether through outpatient clinics in a more local setting or remote testing and assessments, investors are backing models that deliver efficiency, access, and scalability.

With further NHS reforms on the horizon, we expect continued deal activity as PE firms and corporates position themselves as essential partners to the NHS – not just in hospitals, but at the heart of local care.

Key players

medinet

Diagnostic HEALTHCARE

CHEC healthcare for local people

18 W S

Optegra EYE HEALTH CARE

SpaMedica

cora HEALTH

INUVI

AUDIOLOGICAL SCIENCE PREMIUM HEARING AIDS, BELOW MARKET PRICES

In focus: SEN schools

Selected PE-backed operators

140%
increase in the number of children with EHCPs in the last decade

1.6m
school pupils in England with identified SEND

£62k
average fees per pupil in privately operated SEND settings

With demand for specialist SEN education continuing to grow, the UK market remains highly attractive for investors and operators. As of January 2024, over 1.6 million pupils in England had identified special educational needs, with 576,000 holding Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans – an 11.4% rise from the previous year. Increasing diagnostic awareness, particularly around autism and mental health, continues to drive this growth.

Local authority capacity remains insufficient to meet demand, leading to greater reliance on independent specialist schools. Council spending on private SEN placements rose dramatically, from £576 million in 2015-16 to a projected £1.8 billion in 2024-25, with independent school placements increasing significantly over the same period. Despite higher fees (averaging around £62,000 per pupil compared to £24,000 in state settings), private operators are essential for delivering specialist provision, underscoring significant sector reliance on their expertise.

Private equity activity remains robust, with firms actively pursuing consolidation opportunities. Recent notable deals include Apposite Capital's acquisition of Octavia House Schools and Innervation Capital-backed Melrose Education's continued growth through acquisitions and new developments.

However, the Labour government has placed greater political focus on the role of private providers and perceptions of profiteering. Recent announcements included £740 million in funding to expand SEND provision in mainstream schools, alongside increasing scrutiny of private sector involvement. While these moves reflect political attention on the sector, the complexity of needs served by independent providers suggests sustained demand.

Overall, the UK SEN schools market continues to exhibit compelling fundamentals: rising demand, strong investor appetite, and essential private-sector delivery. Despite political scrutiny, specialist providers remain integral to meeting the increasingly complex educational needs of children, underpinning ongoing opportunities for growth and investment.

In focus: Fertility

With one in seven couples facing infertility and a growing number of single women and same-sex couples seeking reproductive services, the UK fertility market is seeing rapid growth. Private IVF cycles have surged by 24.1% since the pandemic, reflecting the growing reliance on private clinics, which now undertake over 65% of all fertility treatments in the UK. In part, this is due to declining access to NHS-funded fertility treatments, however the private market is undoubtedly more than offsetting this.

This growth is further supported by technological innovations, such as AI-driven embryo selection and genetic screening, which are improving treatment success rates and making fertility services more accessible and appealing to a wider audience. Innovations like these are helping to shape the future of fertility care, broadening its appeal not only to heterosexual couples but also to single women and same-sex couples, who now account for nearly 20% of treatment cycles – a figure that has doubled over the past decade.

The UK fertility market's growth has been accompanied by continued M&A activity where consolidation opportunities still exist. FutureLife, a pan-European provider of fertility services, acquired the Centre for Reproductive and Genetic Health (CRGH) in 2022, followed by the acquisition of Bristol Centre for Reproductive Medicine (BCRM) in October 2024. These strategic moves align with FutureLife's goal of expanding its presence in the UK. Similarly, Care Fertility, the prominent Nordic Capital-backed provider, expanded its footprint by acquiring the Centre for Reproduction & Gynaecology Wales (CRGW) in October 2023, further consolidating its position in the market. In addition, the London Women's Clinic acquired iTrust Fertility in July 2023, strengthening its operations in the South East and enhancing its range of services, including IVF, egg and sperm donation, and surrogacy options.

Advances in technology have also driven significant investment into fertility tech platforms, with General Atlantic's $200M Series C investment in Flo Health underscoring this interest. Flo Health, a leader in women's health apps, continues to expand its reach, making fertility tracking and reproductive health management more accessible. In addition, Pioneer Group's investment in Bea Fertility in November 2023 will fuel the growth of its at-home fertility treatment program. This unique service offers affordable, self-administered intracervical insemination (ICI) treatments. Meanwhile, in January 2024, IBSA Group acquired Aura Fertility, an app designed to improve the IVF experience through evidence-based psychosocial support, aligning with IBSA's commitment to enhancing patient outcomes in reproductive care.

As the sector continues to evolve, both in terms of service offerings and technological solutions, it will likely see further consolidation and significant investor interest.

IVC clinic acquisitions

BCRM – FutureLife
CRGW – Carefertility
CRGH – FutureLife
itrust fertility – London Womens Clinic

Fertility tech investments

Flo – General Atlantic
béa fertility – Pioneer
Aura – IBSA
Fertifa – Notion

£658m
estimated size of the UK fertility market

77,000
IVF cycles carried out at HFEA registered clinics in 2022

73%
increase in private IVF cycles between 2008 and 2022

3. January snapshot

Notable sector deals: January 2025

Acquisition of Creative Care by Consensus

- A successful deal for Stirling Square-backed Consensus, with the addition of specialist residential care provider Creative Care
- East Midlands-based Creative Care provides residential care and support for people with autism, learning disabilities and other complex needs across ten services
- The acquisition supports Consensus' strategic growth, expanding its footprint and reinforcing its reputation for high quality care
- The deal provides an exit for Spring Ventures, which has backed Creative Care since 2014

MediMatch MBO supported by Queen's Park Equity

- An interesting new platform for Queen's Park Equity, backing the management buy-out of MediMatch
- MediMatch is a digital-first dental laboratories group, serving over 2,000 dentists across the UK, Dublin, Milan and Paris
- The company has been growing at 20% annually for the past three years and aims to accelerate its growth through organic expansion and acquisitions
- QPE's investment will provide capital and expertise, supporting MediMatch's buy-and-build strategy to strengthen its market position
- The deal highlights the potential for consolidation in the sector, following buy and build strategies for ALS and Corus

Optima's acquisition of BHSF Occupational Health

- A highly complementary deal for Optima with the acquisition of BHSF Occupational Health
- BHSF specialises in preventing work-related illnesses and injuries, safeguarding workers from occupational hazards, and promoting overall workplace health & safety
- The deal will add £8m in revenue alongside 60 experienced occupational health clinicians to Optima's operations in the sector
- This marks the first acquisition for Optima since its spin-off from Marlowe and listing on AIM in September 2024, with the business stating that targeted M&A will continue to be used to accelerate growth

Acquisition of Surgery Hero by Sword Health

- A strategic deal for AI-driven digital MSK provider Sword Health, with the acquisition of digital health solutions company Surgery Hero
- Surgery Hero specialises in providing prehabilitation digital health, helping patients prepare for and recover from surgery
- The acquisition will enable collaboration with 18 NHS trusts, supporting 10 million people to implement Sword's AI care model
- The integration of prehabilitation services will also position Sword to offer support from pre-surgery through to recovery in the UK
- The deal highlights the attractiveness of digital health businesses reducing pressure on the NHS through the efficient use of technology

Healthcare market activity: January 2025

Private equity activity

Sub-sector	Target	Acquirer / Investor	Exiting PE
Consultancy	Newmarket Strategy	Baird Capital	N/A
Dental Labs	MediMatch	Queen's Park Equity	N/A
Digital Health	Meddbase	Cority (Thoma Bravo)	N/A
Medical Equipment	Xiel	MIS Healthcare (H2 Equity)	N/A
Physiotherapy	Central Health Physiotherapy	Pure Physiotherapy / Examworks (CVC)	N/A
Specialist Care	Creative Care	Consensus (Stirling Square)	Spring Ventures

Venture capital activity

Target	Description	Lead investor	Investment
Cera	Tech-enabled homecare	BDT & MSD Partners	£123m
Deciphex	Pathology software	Molten Ventures	£26.1m
Kidney Beam	Exercise and lifestyle app for people with kidney disease	Various	£0.6m
Owlstone Medical	Breath biopsy used to diagnose and monitor digestive diseases	Ventura Capital	£22m

Eclipse Corporate Finance

4. February snapshot

Notable sector deals: February 2025

Liva Healthcare's acquisition of Momenta

- A complementary deal for Liva Healthcare with the acquisition of digital lifestyle service provider Momenta
- Momenta provides digital and in-person healthy lifestyle programmes to the NHS and local authorities across the UK, for the prevention of chronic conditions such as type 2 diabetes
- Liva is a digital health technology platform with human-led therapeutic intervention programmes for lifestyle-related chronic diseases
- The deal will cement Liva's position as one of the largest providers of healthy lifestyle programmes to the NHS and follows its latest funding round led by Danish family investment group, IBL Group

Acquisition of Hospital Services by Asker Healthcare Group

- A strategic acquisition for Asker Healthcare Group, with the bolt-on of Belfast-based Hospital Services Limited (HSL)
- HSL is a specialist distributor of diagnostic medical devices to public and private hospitals across RoI, Northern Ireland, and Great Britain
- Asker Healthcare Group is a European consolidator of medical product businesses, completing 50 acquisitions since 2019
- The transaction provides a successful exit for Foresight Group, after driving HSL's growth to revenues of c.£60m since investing in 2015
- The deal highlights continued activity in the medical products market, with large scale operators deploying buy and build strategies

Audiological Science MBO supported by YFM

- Another successful healthcare deal for YFM, backing the management buy-out of Audiological Science with a £12.4m investment
- Audiological Science provides hearing tests, hearing aids and a wider range of audiology services to both NHS and private-pay patients
- As a specialist community-based provider, the business plays a crucial role in supporting the NHS in its ambition to take low-complexity ear care out of hospital settings, reducing waiting lists and freeing up hospitals to focus on more complex cases
- The deal highlights continued private equity interest in high quality businesses providing community-based services to the NHS

Acquisition of Apple House by National Care Group

- A further acquisition for specialist care consolidator, National Care Group, with the addition of specialist accommodation provider Apple House
- Apple House operates across six locations in the Dorset area, offering personalised support for adults with learning disabilities and associated needs
- The acquisition will strengthen National Care Group's care provision in the region and allow collaboration with its existing services
- Demand for high-quality, person-centred adult social care continues to grow, with providers focusing on expanding services to meet the needs of individuals, families, and commissioning bodies

Healthcare market activity: February 2025

Private equity activity

Sub-sector	Target	Acquirer / Investor	Exiting PE
Clinical Services	Audiological Science	YFM	N/A
Clinical Services	Momenta	Liva Healthcare (IBL Group)	N/A
Medical Equipment	HSL	Asker Healthcare	Foresight
Pharma	ALTURiX	Kelso Pharma (Apposite)	N/A

Venture capital activity

Target	Description	Lead investor	Investment
CareLoop	Digital therapeutics for mental health	Praetura	£1.8m
IQ Endoscopes	Single use, flexible endoscopes	BGF	£5.2m
Level Zero Health	Remote hormone monitoring	Redalpine	£5.5m
OrganOx	Medical technology used in organ transplants	HealthQuest Capital	$142m
Pill Connect	Device to track medicine consumption	Praetura	N/D

5. March snapshot

Notable sector deals: March 2025

BGF's investment in OCL Vision

- A significant multi million-pound investment from BGF into private eye care provider OCL Vision
- Offering the full spectrum of ophthalmic procedures, OCL Vision operates clinics in London and Hertfordshire and performs c.4,000 procedures annually
- The investment will allow OCL to scale its operations, expand nationwide and invest back into the company through marketing and new technology
- Rising demand for private eye care, driven by PMI and self pay model growth, alongside long NHS waiting times, is creating new opportunities for independent ophthalmology providers

Acquisition of Cyber Media Health by Mayden Group

- A well aligned acquisition for G Square-backed Mayden Group, with the addition of health tech company Cyber Media Health and Wellbeing Solutions
- Cyber Media provides a case management system, Theseus, which supports a range of services including drugs and alcohol, smoking cessation, social prescribing and weight management
- The addition of Cyber Media will allow Mayden to support a greater number of services as the business looks to diversify under G Square's ownership
- Proven healthcare software solutions continue to be in demand by investors and acquirers, with ongoing digitalisation of the sector increasingly key in creating efficiencies

Eden Futures' acquisition of Care Wish

- A highly complementary care deal for Sovereign-backed Eden Futures, with the acquisition of supported living provider Care Wish
- Based in the West Midlands, Care Wish provides supported living services with a team of c.95 staff members
- Eden provides supported living services across the Midlands and North England, caring for over 700 people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health conditions
- The deal strengthens Eden's presence in the West Midlands and introduces a new transitionary service for young people moving from children's homes into supported living

Merger of PHL Group and Malling Health

- PHL Group, backed by Ethos Partners, has merged with primary care service provider Malling Health
- Malling Health offers a range of primary care services including urgent care centres and GP practices across the Midlands and East Anglia
- The merger strengthens PHL Group's position in the sector, broadening its geographical reach and service capabilities
- This is PHL Group's second major transaction following its acquisition of Synaptik in 2022, aligning with Ethos Partners' strategy to enhance the service offering and expand market presence

Healthcare market activity: March 2025

Private equity activity

Sub-sector	Target	Acquirer / Investor	Exiting PE
Clinical Services	OCL Vision	BGF	N/A
Clinical Services	Malling Health	PHL Group (Ethos)	N/A
Dental	New Life Teeth	57 Stars	N/A
Digital Health	Cyber Media Health & Wellbeing Solutions	Mayden Group (G Square)	N/A
Recruitment	Altruix Group	HCRG (Twenty20 Capital)	N/A
Specialist Care	Care Wish	Eden Futures (Sovereign)	N/A
Specialist Care	Nurture Childcare Services	Pebbles Care (Ardenton)	N/A

Venture capital activity

Target	Description	Lead investor	Investment
Brainomix	AI-powered imaging tools in stroke and lung fibrosis	Parkwalk Advisers	£14m
Eventum Orthopaedics	Device providing real time data for knee surgery	Mercia	£3.8m
ImmunONE	3D human lung model for testing	Midlands Engine Investment Fund	£600k
Maxion Therapeutics	Treatments for inflammatory diseases	General Catalyst	£58m
ReadyGo Diagnostics	Diagnostic test developer	Maven Capital	£500k
Stroll	AR glasses to treat neurological disorders	IW Capital	£10m

6. April snapshot

Notable sector deals: April 2025

Fremman Capital's acquisition of Amethyst Healthcare

- Another significant healthcare investment for Fremman Capital, acquiring Amethyst Healthcare Group, a European cancer care provider
- Amethyst operates 19 cancer treatment centres in Europe, delivering essential oncology services (primarily radiotherapy) to over 50,000 patients annually
- The business was founded in 2009, with exiting owners, The Rohatyn Group, investing in 2019 to support the group's expansion
- Fremman plans to accelerate Amethyst's growth in what is a highly resilient and non-cyclical market, which is expected to show continued growth
- The deal further highlights Fremman's healthcare credentials, with a portfolio which is increasingly weighted towards the sector

Downing enters the neuro-rehab care market

- A new platform for Downing as it enters the neuro-rehab market with the acquisitions of Inspire Neurocare and Hambereley Neurocare
- The combined business operates four facilities across Southampton, Basingstoke, Camberley and Worcester, with a total of 188 beds
- The platform will be led by Tim Street and Daniel Kay, two highly experienced healthcare executives
- The neuro-rehab market is valued at £1.1bn, with a significant capacity gap estimated between 10,000 and 15,000 beds
- Downing are looking to capitalise upon this opportunity by consolidating the market and creating additional capacity

Foresight's investment into The Functional Gut Group

- An interesting £5.75m investment for Foresight into The Functional Gut Group
- Functional Gut is a provider of diagnostic testing services for patients suffering from digestive health issues, encompassing both private and NHS services
- Founded in 2014 by Anthony Hobson, the business operates 3 permanent clinics in Manchester, Cambridge and London, as well as multiple further collaborative clinics across the UK
- The investment will support with geographical expansion and further scaling of the team
- The deal highlights Foresight's focus on the healthcare sector, including successful exits from Kingsbridge and Hospital Services in recent months

Strategic acquisition for Achieve Together

- A strategic deal for Achieve Together, acquiring Outcomes First Group's adult residential services, consisting of 18 homes
- Achieve Together is one of the UK's leading providers of specialist support for autistic people and people with learning disabilities
- The acquisition is a strong geographical fit for Achieve Together, strengthening the local support options for autistic people
- The deal highlights OFG's movement away from residential care, with a core focus on education following investment from The Rise Fund in late 2023
- Specialist residential and supported living services continue to be in demand from acquirers and investors due to their resilience and non-cyclical nature

Healthcare market activity: April 2025

Private equity activity

Sub-sector	Target	Acquirer / Investor	Exiting PE
Case Management	ILS Case Management	HCML (Apposite)	N/A
Clinical Services	Amethyst Healthcare	Fremman Capital	TRG
Clinical Services	The Functional Gut Group	Foresight	N/A
Digital Health	Inicio Health	RDI Group (LDC)	N/A
Elderly Care	Monarch Care Group	RDCP Care (RDCP)	N/A
Medical Equipment	DCC's healthcare division	Investindustrial	N/A
Medical Equipment	IMS Euro Group	Elysian Capital	N/A
Specialist Care	Inspire & Hamberley Neurocare	Downing	N/A
Specialist Care	OFG's adult residential division	Achieve Together (InfraBridge)	N/A
Specialist Care	Spectra Care	Optimo Care (Oxygen EP)	N/A

Venture capital activity

Target	Description	Lead investor	Investment
Spotlight Pathology	AI-powered pathology tools	EHE Ventures	£425k
Isomorphic Labs	AI drug discovery technology	Thrive Capital	$600m
SiSU Health	Early detection of risk factors for high blood pressure and obesity	Praetura	£1.25m
Skin Analytics	AI skin cancer tests	Intrepid Growth Partners	£15m
OSSTEC	3d printing for joint replacement	Empirical Ventures	£2.5m
Healsgood	Healthcare recruitment technology platform	Fuel Ventures	£1.5m

Eclipse
Corporate Finance

7. May snapshot

Notable sector deals: May 2025

EssilorLuxottica's acquisition of Optegra

- A strategic acquisition for EssilorLuxottica, acquiring the rapidly expanding ophthalmology group Optegra
- Optegra operates 70+ clinics across the UK and Europe under the Optegra, Lexum, and Iris brands
- The deal supports EssilorLuxottica's ambition to offer integrated eyecare services, from diagnostics and therapeutic interventions to surgical treatments
- The transaction reinforces heightened M&A activity in ophthalmology, following recent deals such as BGF's investment in OCL Vision and Clinica Baviera's acquisition of Optimax

Acquisition of ADHD360 by Keys Group

- An interesting diversification acquisition for Keys Group, adding virtual neurodiversity provider ADHD 360
- ADHD 360 delivers ADHD and autism assessments to both private and NHS patients via a digital platform
- The acquisition strengthens Keys' neurodiversity capabilities and broadens access to remote mental health support
- Founder Dr Phillip Anderton will remain in place post-deal to support growth
- The transaction highlights continued interest in the neurodiversity space, as ADHD and autism diagnoses rise and assessment backlogs persist across the UK

ICG's investment into Hakim Group

- A milestone for Hakim Group, the UK's largest family of independent opticians and audiologists, receiving growth investment from ICG
- Hakim supports over 500 partner-led optometry and audiology practices across the UK and Ireland, offering clinical autonomy and shared infrastructure
- The business has grown rapidly through acquisitions and partnerships with independent practices
- The investment will support continued M&A activity, operational scaling, and enhancements to technology and customer experience
- Incumbent investor All Seas Capital, which invested in 2020, will partially reinvest alongside ICG

Investment into FibroFind from Vespa Capital

- Another pharma services deal for Vespa Capital, investing in Newcastle-based innovative CRO FibroFind
- FibroFind's precision-cut tissue slice platform supports high-fidelity preclinical drug testing across multiple organs
- The business was spun out of Newcastle University in 2018 and has built a global reputation in translational preclinical research
- The funding will drive commercial scale-up, international expansion, and development of additional tissue models
- The deal highlights growing investor interest in CROs that improve early-stage drug testing accuracy and reduce clinical trial failure rates

Healthcare market activity: May 2025

Private equity activity

Sub-sector	Target	Acquirer / Investor	Exiting PE
Clinical Services	The Pharmacy Network	Growth Fund 1	N/A
Specialist Care	Save Haven Care	Mysa Care (Downing)	N/A
Pharma Services	Fibrofind	Vespa Capital	N/A
Specialist Care	ALP Supported Living	Iris Care Group (Ancala)	N/A
Clinical Services	ADHD360	Keys Group (G Square)	N/A
Opticians	Hakim Group	ICG	All Seas (reinvested)

Venture capital activity

Target	Description	Lead investor	Investment
Mindspire	Neurotech start-up	SFC Capital	£0.85m
Envoke	Lab tech simulator	Mercia	£1m
Magnitude Biosciences	Drug discovery innovator	Maven	£0.7m
Zeus Sleep	Non-invasive devices to aid sleep	British Design Fund	£0.15m

8. June snapshot

Notable sector deals: June 2025

PHL's acquisition of trading subsidiaries of Totally Plc

- A transformational acquisition for PHL Group, acquiring the trading subsidiaries of Totally plc
- The deal includes Totally's elective care and corporate wellbeing subsidiaries through a share sale, and the simultaneous purchase of the business and assets of the urgent care division
- The acquisition significantly expands PHL's service footprint and strengthens its position as a leading independent healthcare services provider
- Backed by Ethos Partners, PHL continues its strategic growth trajectory following earlier acquisitions of Malling Health and Synaptik

Accel-KKR's investment into CareLineLive

- A significant investment from Accel-KKR into CareLineLive, a fast-growing home care management software provider
- CareLineLive offers an all-in-one cloud-based platform for homecare agencies, integrating staff scheduling, client visits, patient records and invoicing
- The investment will fuel international expansion, platform development, and enhanced customer support
- The transaction underlines continued interest in the care management software sector, with other PE-backed consolidators such as Person Centred Software and Nourish having completed a variety of bolt-on deals

Downing backs new platform Fortava Healthcare

- A new dementia care platform launched with the backing of Downing, with the strategic acquisition of two purpose-built care homes
- Fortava Healthcare, based in Peterborough, is led by Johann van Zyl (ex-Cornerstone Healthcare) and Jamie Stuart (former Deputy Head of Healthcare at Virgin Money)
- The business has acquired The Maltings and Thorpe Wood, two 50-bed homes previously operated by Peterborough Care
- Fortava aims to deliver innovative dementia care, underpinned by cognitive stimulation therapy and a values-driven culture for residents and staff

Acquisition of AdviseInc by NEC

- A strategic acquisition for NEC Software Solutions UK, acquiring health analytics company AdviseInc
- AdviseInc provides procurement analytics and benchmarking tools to NHS organisations and global health systems
- Its solutions support smarter buying decisions, greater efficiency, and improved visibility across healthcare procurement
- The acquisition strengthens NEC's health proposition, combining AdviseInc's data capabilities with NEC's core technologies and customer base
- The deal reflects ongoing interest from acquirers and investors in high-quality software and data providers that deliver measurable benefits to the NHS

Healthcare market activity: June 2025

Private equity activity

Sub-sector	Target	Acquirer / Investor	Exiting PE
Clinical Services	Totally Plc's trading subsidiaries	PHL Group (Ethos Partners)	N/A
Digital Health	CareLineLive	Accel-KKR	N/A
Pharma Services	Decisive Consulting	Herspiegel (DFW Capital)	N/A
Specialist Care	Fortava Healthcare	Downing	N/A
Specialist Care	Serenity Care Homes	Tristone (Duke Royalty)	N/A
Specialist Care	Strathallen Care Home	Milewood (BC8)	N/A

Venture capital activity

Target	Description	Lead investor	Investment
Outsee	AI-based predictive genomics	Ahren Innovation Capital	£1.8m
Perci Health	AI-powered virtual cancer clinic	Guinness Ventures	£3m
Ceryx Medical	Pacemaker technology	Development Bank of Wales	£5m
Draig Therapeutics	Therapies for neuropsychiatric disorders	Access Biotechnology	$140m
Crucible Therapeutics	Therapies to address causes of MND	Innovate UK	£2.3m

9. 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 Physiolistic

- Further expansion in the physio market for Spire with the acquisition of Physiolistic, an operator of multiple clinics in the Thames Valley area
- Employing 30 highly trained team members including 20 physios, Physiolistic 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 Physiolistic 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

10. 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

Eclipse Corporate Finance

11. 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

12. October snapshot

Notable sector deals: October 2025

Narayana's acquisition of Practice Plus Group's hospitals

- India-based hospital group, Narayana Health, has acquired the hospitals division of Practice Plus to enter the UK market
- The transaction involves 12 hospitals and surgical centres across the UK, with a focus on ophthalmology, orthopaedics and general surgery
- Narayana operates a network of primary, secondary and tertiary care facilities in India and the Caribbean
- It intends to integrate Practice Plus into its ecosystem, leveraging its technology and operational platforms for innovation, efficiency and accessible care delivery
- The deal follows a spate of UK hospital acquisitions, as international acquirers see growing potential in the UK's private healthcare sector

Keensight's investment into Bedfont Scientific

- Keensight Capital has acquired a majority stake in Bedfont Scientific Ltd., a UK-based maker of non-invasive breath-analysis medical devices
- Bedfont designs and manufactures high-precision breath and gas analysis instruments, including the NObreath® FeNO device (for asthma monitoring) and tools for smoking cessation and gastrointestinal disorders
- The company distributes its products via over 100 partners in more than 70 countries and serves both primary and secondary healthcare settings globally
- Keensight will partner with Bedfont's management to accelerate its international expansion, drive innovation and potentially pursue further acquisitions

Acquisition of Fairford Medical's fleet by medneo UK

- medneo UK has acquired Fairford Medical's MRI and CT fleet, expanding its capacity to deliver mobile and modular diagnostic imaging services
- The deal follows CVC DIF's investment in medneo UK in August 2024 and marks the company's first acquisition since that partnership
- The integration of Fairford's fleet will broaden medneo's national footprint, supporting the NHS with faster access to MRI and CT scans
- The acquisition forms part of medneo's ambitious growth strategy to become one of the UK's leading diagnostic services providers
- The deal highlights continued interest from strategic acquirers and investors in UK diagnostic imaging, as scan numbers continue to rise

Asker Healthcare's acquisition of Novus Med

- Asker Healthcare Group has acquired Novus Med, a UK-based distributor of endoscopic surgery technologies and patient-positioning systems
- Asker Healthcare Group is a leading Nordic distributor of medical supplies and equipment, serving hospitals, care homes, and primary care providers across Europe
- The company completed one of Europe's largest IPOs of 2025, listing on the Stockholm Stock Exchange and raising approximately SEK 8.9 billion to support growth and acquisitions
- The deal follows Asker's recent acquisitions of HSL and HNC, continuing the Group's UK expansion and acquisition drive in surgical and acute-care markets

Healthcare market activity: October 2025

Private equity activity

Sub-sector	Target	Acquirer / Investor	Exiting PE
Clinical Services	Fairford Medical's CT/MRI fleet	medneo UK (CVC DIF)	N/A
Clinical Services	Newry Private Clinic	Kingsbridge (Exponent)	N/A
Clinical Services	Practice Plus' Hospital Division	Narayana Health	Bridgepoint
Medical Equipment	Bedfont Scientific	Keensight Capital	N/A
Specialist Care	Swanborough House	Integrum Care (Duke Royalty)	N/A
Specialist Care	Victoria House	Priory Group (Waterland)	N/A

Venture capital activity

Target	Description	Lead investor	Investment
Aisthesis Medical	AI to predict in-hospital sepsis 48 hours in advance	TwinPath TECS Capital	$1.2m
CoMind	Non-invasive brain scanning platform	Plural	$60
Cyclane Bio	Endometriosis drug discovery	NfX Eka VC	£5m
Gladys	AI platform to support the home care sector	Cornerstone VC	£1.5m
Jack Fertility	Accessible male fertility testing	Fuel Ventures	£500k
Simple Life	App providing practical weight loss support	HartBeat Ventures Liquidity	£26m
Trogenix	Development of therapies for aggressive cancers	IQ Capital	£70m

13. November snapshot

Notable sector deals: November 2025

RadNet's acquisition of CIMAR

- RadNet has acquired CIMAR, a provider of cloud-native healthcare image-management solutions
- CIMAR powers image-management infrastructure across more than 50 percent of NHS Trusts and 80 percent of UK private hospital groups
- CIMAR will be integrated into DeepHealth, RadNet's digital-health subsidiary, combining its infrastructure with DeepHealth's AI-powered informatics, reporting and workflow tools
- The deal aims to create a more connected, efficient and scalable imaging-care platform across the UK and Europe

Acquisition of CF Group by Keys Group

- Keys Group has acquired CF Group, an independent tutoring and mentoring organisation, marking its fourth major acquisition this year
- CF Group delivers face-to-face tutoring and mentoring across East Anglia, operates four residential children's homes in Suffolk, and provides independent social work assessments
- The business will sit within Keys Group's Children's and Education divisions, expanding its offer beyond specialist schools and residential homes
- The acquisition follows Keys Group's recent deals for Mable Therapy and ADHD 360, further strengthening its alternative provision and hybrid learning capabilities

Zoetis' acquisition of Veterinary Pathology Group

- Zoetis has acquired Veterinary Pathology Group (VPG), a network of veterinary diagnostic laboratories in the UK and Ireland
- VPG provides pathology services including histopathology, cytology, clinical pathology, microbiology and molecular diagnostics
- The acquisition expands Zoetis' reference laboratory footprint and strengthens its veterinary diagnostics offering in the UK and Ireland
- VPG will join Zoetis' Global Diagnostics business, supporting its strategy to deliver more comprehensive, technology-enabled diagnostic solutions for veterinarians

Lanas' acquisition of Clanwilliam backed by TA Associates

- Lanas Healthcare Technologies has launched as a new global health-tech platform following its acquisition of Clanwilliam Group
- The business starts with over $120 million in revenue, more than 1.5 million clinical users, and operations in over 20 countries with 19 offices
- Backed by TA Associates, alongside Apollo, Hayfin and Arcmont, Lanas has US$115m+ of committed M&A funding
- The platform will acquire and scale proven healthcare technologies across pharmacy, primary and community care, specialists, care platforms and medical communications

Healthcare market activity: November 2025

Private equity activity

Sub-sector	Target	Acquirer / Investor	Exiting PE
Children's Services	CF Group	Keys Group (G Square)	BCF Equity
Digital Health	Clanwilliam Group	Lanas (TA Associates)	N/A
Elderly Care	Danforth Care Homes	Welltower	Warwick Capital
Training	ABM Training	Impact Futures Group (August Equity)	N/A
Training	Learna	Reducate (All Seas)	N/A
Specialist Care	Beech Cliffe	Milewood (BC8)	N/A

Venture capital activity

Target	Description	Lead investor	Investment
1nhaler	Pop-up cardboard dry powder inhaler	Archangels	£1.5m
Artios	Pipeline of DNA damage response targeting cancer drugs	SV Health Investors RA Capital Management	$115m
Emm	Menstrual cup and connected app	Lunar Ventures	$9m
PolyModels Hub	Bioprocess modelling platform used by biopharma companies	Molten Ventures	£7m
Scripta Therapeutics	Novel approach to targeting the aberrant transcriptional networks that drive disease	Oxford Science Enterprises Apollo Health Ventures	$12m
Sentinel	Digital platform for trauma prevention for frontline professionals	SFC Capital	£1.2m
T-Therapeutics	T-cell receptor therapeutics for cancer and autoimmune disease	BGF Tencent	$91m

14. December snapshot

Notable sector deals: December 2025

Brighton Park's investment into Person Centred Software

- PCS has received investment from Brighton Park Capital and Nic Humphries, joining incumbent majority investor Cow Corner which has backed the business since 2021
- PCS is the UK's leading care management software provider serving more than 8,400 care homes
- The investment will support accelerated product development, enhanced data analytics and predictive insights, and the exploration of adjacent and complementary technologies
- The business also announced a partnership with Clearcare, the UKs leading provider of children's social care software

Voy's acquisition of Morelife

- Voy has acquired Morelife, a UK-based specialist in weight management, lifestyle and preventative healthcare solutions
- Morelife brings 20 years' experience delivering specialist weight management and behaviour change programmes and is a provider to the NHS Digital Weight Management Programme
- The acquisition will support Morelife in extending its technology-enabled care pathways, drawing on Voy's experience in scaling digital healthcare for people living with obesity and other chronic conditions
- The deal highlights the growing focus on weight management solutions among investors and acquirers

MBO of Taking Care backed by LDC

- LDC has backed the management buy-out of Taking Care, a provider of technology-enabled care products and services from AXA health
- Founded in 1985 and headquartered in Exeter, Taking Care provides personal alarms, smart home monitoring and 24/7 response services, supporting 150,000+ customers across the UK and acting as the exclusive telecare provider to Age Co
- LDC is backing Taking Care to expand its services, support more people to live independently at home, and pursue complementary acquisitions that broaden its product and service offering
- The deal further strengthens LDC's extensive healthcare portfolio

Cardinal Capital's investment into Cathedral Eye Clinic

- Cardinal Capital Group has invested €30m to acquire a majority stake in Cathedral Eye Clinic, a specialist ophthalmology provider operating clinics in Belfast and Birmingham
- The investment will fund significant capacity expansion, including a new ophthalmology clinic in Belfast, doubling surgical capacity at the existing site
- Further expansion plans include a new ophthalmology unit in Dublin and an additional clinic in England, supporting growth across Ireland, Northern Ireland and the UK
- The deal reflects strong investor appetite for private ophthalmology platforms, following BGF's investment into OCL Vision earlier in the year

Healthcare market activity: December 2025

Private equity activity

Sub-sector	Target	Acquirer / Investor	Exiting PE
Clinical Services	Cathedral Eye Clinic	Cardinal Capital Group	N/A
Consumer Health	Covestus Healthcare	Maven Capital	N/A
Digital Health	Clearcare	PCS (Cow Corner / Brighton Park)	N/A
Digital Health	Person Centred Software	Brighton Park Capital	N/A
Homecare	Just A Little Company	Routes Healthcare (Palatine)	N/A
Medical Equipment	Taking Care	LDC	N/A
Pharma Services	Initiate Consultancy	Queen’s Park Equity	N/A

Venture capital activity

Target	Description	Lead investor	Investment
EpilepsyGTx	Single dose gene therapy for focal refractory epilepsy	XGEN Venture	£24.8m
Gutsy Health	Gut health supplement range	Equity Gap	£0.3m
IVFmicro	Developing technology to improve the success rate of IVF treatments	Northern Gritstone	£3.5m

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