

# PAIN BEHIND THE NHS SPIN

GORDON Brown last week held his hands up to a decade of failure in the NHS.

The PM finally admitted patients are dying because the health service is not preventing them getting ill.

He promised the biggest reform of the NHS for a generation.

Mr Brown said: "The NHS will be personal to the patient. It will work directly for your needs and wishes.

"It will identify

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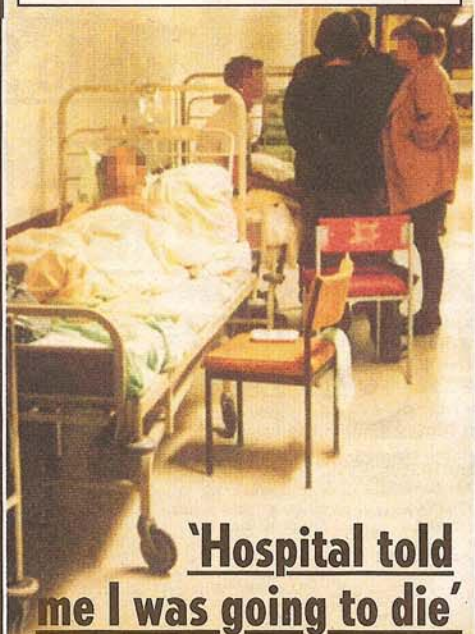
your clinical needs earlier than before and will be targeted to keep you healthy and fit." But for millions of

patients it is too little too late. After ten years of promises, lives are still being put at risk because of a failure to diagnose fatal illnesses early enough.

Here are the case studies that show what's going on.



VOW: Brown



## 'Hospital told me I was going to die'

THOUSANDS of NHS patients with lung cancer are being denied life-saving treatment.

Don Moulden had already had one lung removed due to cancer. When it came back again in his other lung last year he was told by his local hospital to go home and prepare for death. He had run out of treatment options.

But luckily the 70-year-old decided to do some research and discovered that a treatment called photo dynamic therapy might help. He was referred to University College Hospital in London where he was told that his tumour could be safely removed without invasive surgery. Don,

from Buntingford, Herts, was injected with a light-sensitive cancer drug that is absorbed by the tumour.

Doctors then fed a tube containing a laser light into Don's lung. When turned on the laser light destroyed the tumour. Don said: "If I hadn't found out about PDT I would be dead now. My consultant was utterly convinced he could help me and that I would live to tell the tale. The treatment was utterly painless."

David Longman, of charity Killing Cancer, said: "This treatment is available on the NHS but the unit using it is starved of NHS funds. It's tragic."

