



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Embargoed: 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010 00.00hrs**

### **Total readmissions within 30 days cost the NHS £1.6 billion**

Figures compiled by CHKS using the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) database show that total readmissions to hospital within 30 days is costing the NHS £1.6 billion<sup>1</sup>.

This latest analysis also reveals a wide variation between hospitals with readmissions accounting for up to 15.0 per cent of average turnover in some hospitals to less than 1.0 per cent in others.

The figures show that of the 14.2 million discharges from hospital in 12 months up to June 2009, in total 916,000 patients (just under 6.5 per cent) were readmitted within 30 days. When the original admissions were examined CHKS researchers found that 70 per cent were emergency admissions, as opposed to being elective (planned).

Health Secretary Andrew Lansley has made a policy pledge to penalise those trusts where patients are readmitted within 30 days. This is part of a drive to ensure that treatment in secondary care is joined up with services in primary care and that patients with long-term conditions are not trapped in a cycle of hospital admissions.

Paul Robinson, head of market intelligence, CHKS said: "The health warning that comes with this analysis is that it is a worst case scenario because it includes all readmissions. However, there hasn't been much detail on what will be included and what will be excluded, so it's helpful in terms of assessing the scale of the issue. It is also worth pointing out that a number of readmissions are to be expected even with the best possible hospital care."

- ends -

**Notes to editors:**

1. The data source for the analysis was the Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES) database. The data period was July 2008 to June 2009 (allowing for full forward readmissions through the following six months). HRG v3.5 and the 2008/09 tariff was used. For the few episodes where the HRG was not identifiable a figure of £1,000 was applied (the overall average was just over £1,500).
2. CHKS Ltd, part of the Capita Group Plc, is the leading independent provider of healthcare intelligence and quality improvement services to the NHS and independent healthcare sector. With over 20 years' experience and working internationally with 480 clients, CHKS has a portfolio of information products, internationally-recognised accreditation programmes and consultancy services which provide clinicians and managers with the information needed to drive improvements inpatient care, financial efficiency, clinical effectiveness and quality. CHKS has an Advisory Board to provide direction and advice on strategic healthcare issues in the UK and overseas.

**For media enquires please contact:**

Julian Tyndale-Biscoe, InHealth Communications, on 07882 985597, or Paul Robinson, CHKS, on 07973 234830.

Head Office: CHKS Ltd, 1 Arden Court, Arden Road, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6HN  
Tel: 01789 761600 Fax: 01789 764608