



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Hospitals at risk as NHS faces 15 per cent surplus in capacity**

Hospital trusts face an uncertain future with NHS acute bed over-capacity likely to reach up to 15 per cent, according to leading academic at the University of Birmingham's Health Services Management Centre, Professor Chris Ham.

Professor Ham made his assessment at a recent conference debate in London sponsored by the UK's leading independent health information provider, CHKS. He said that some hospitals will be forced to compete aggressively to fill their beds, others may try to diversify by providing care traditionally associated with primary care while many will be forced to stop providing certain services in a bid to cut costs.

He explained that the reason for the overcapacity was a result of government policy to shift treatment closer to home, with an emphasis on prevention and chronic disease management, combined with continued success in reducing lengths of stay in hospital. "We haven't had a government-led plan for hospitals since 1962 which means that coupled with the pace of NHS reform, acute hospitals face some serious challenges," Professor Ham said.

Dr Paul Robinson, External Relations Manager, CHKS said: "Over capacity is a serious issue which is likely to have a major impact on acute hospitals. This is why information plays such an important role. Hospitals must be able to make decisions based on an analysis of their market share, performance indicators and on meaningful data about outcomes from patients themselves."

**Notes to editors:**

CHKS Ltd is the leading independent provider of healthcare information and quality improvement services to the NHS and independent healthcare sector. With over 15 years' experience and working internationally with 450 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 in patient care, financial efficiency, clinical effectiveness and quality.

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