



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**For immediate release**

### **New research reveals that dementia is costing the NHS £40 million in excess bed days**

Analysis carried out by CHKS, the UK's leading provider of healthcare intelligence and quality improvement services, has found that the cost to the NHS of excess bed days attributable to a secondary diagnosis of dementia is £40 million per annum - based on an average cost per bed day of £420<sup>1</sup>.

Researchers at CHKS examined hospitals admissions across England for 2008 and looked specifically at a group of 12 codes (Healthcare Resource Groups) that come under 'complex elderly'. They found that for these 12 HRGs, secondary diagnosis of dementia accounts for 25 per cent of excess bed days (those where the length of stay is in excess of the expected length of stay for a given admission).

Clinicians can find dementia difficult to diagnose and this contributes to a wide variation between hospital trusts. Some hospitals show secondary diagnosis of dementia accounting for 45 per cent of excess bed days compared with just five per cent in others. Other factors such as the population profile, admitting policies, access to effective primary care, community care and social services also have a major impact on the burden carried by secondary care for dementia.

Jason Harries, managing director, CHKS said: "The NHS understands the impact that a secondary diagnosis of dementia can have in terms of excess bed days. Our latest national analysis shows just how big the problem is and why the NHS needs to look at its care pathways."

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**Notes to editors:**

1. Researchers used an average clinical and nursing cost per bed day of £420 (from NHS Workforce 2009 data) to calculate that excess bed days attributable to secondary dementia equates to £40.4 million.

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 in patient care, financial efficiency, clinical effectiveness and quality. The CHKS Advisory Board was set up in 2007 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