



PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed: 9am 21st January 2010

GPs face scrutiny as latest figures show a rise in hospital admissions and a 28% variation in growth between PCTs

GPs are likely to face increased scrutiny as figures published today by CHKS show that there has been a 6.0 per cent growth in hospital admissions and in addition that the growth varies from PCT to PCT by as much as 28 per cent.

Researchers at CHKS looked at total emergency and elective hospital admissions¹ for the year to March 2009 and compared them with the previous year's admissions. They found that the variation between the PCT with the highest admissions and the PCT with the lowest admissions was 28 per cent.

Dr Paul Robinson, head of market intelligence CHKS, said: "The findings of our latest analysis are significant because it means that some PCTs have a lot to do to curb admissions. With PCTs facing a funding squeeze, one area where PCTs clearly have to focus their attention is inpatient activity. This means they will inevitably be looking at GP referrals into hospital, as well as referrals from other sources such as NHS Direct."

"The 6.0 per cent average increase is also a concern because if the growth in admissions stays at the same level the NHS is in danger of going bankrupt."

A full report and analysis can be found at www.chks.co.uk

- ends -

Notes to editors:

1. CHKS researchers used HES data for England and looked at hospital admissions for the year April 2008 to March 2009 and compared them with hospital admissions for the year April 2007 to March 2008. For emergency admissions they looked at all admission methods starting with the code "2" (i.e. 21 - A&E; 22 - GP; 23 - bed bureau; 24 - Consultant OP clinic; 27 - NHS Direct; 28 - Other means). Elective admissions were all elective inpatients, day cases and regular attenders.

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