



PRESS RELEASE

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Concern over new patient safety indicator leaves hospital trusts and the public confused

The new patient safety indicator published by Dr Foster in this year's Hospital Guide has created confusion amongst hospital trusts and patients according to CHKS, the UK's leading independent experts in healthcare information and improvement services.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC), created to regulate hospitals and ensure public safety, uses a more comprehensive range of data sources than Dr Foster in its analysis. Unfortunately, the wide variation between the CQC's rankings and Dr Foster's patient safety indicator has made it difficult for the NHS and the public to reconcile the two.

With over 20 year's experience in measuring and reporting NHS data, CHKS has been helping hospitals interpret the new indicator and has found that whilst a methodology is given, it is not transparent enough to allow full replication. In other words, hospitals are struggling to understand how their score on the new indicator has been produced.

David Spiegelhalter, Winton Professor of Public Understanding of Risk at the University of Cambridge said: "Hospitals are not football teams that can easily be ranked in a league table and measuring safety is complex and open to manipulation. I'm a statistician and even I'm confused by NHS league tables. They are unjust and simplistic." His full article in *The Times* can be [read here](#).

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Notes to editors:

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 was set up in 2007 to provide direction and advice on strategic healthcare issues in the UK and overseas.

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