



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Mortality data on hip and knee replacements could misinform and mislead patients**

The publication of death rates for hip and knee replacement is likely to misinform and mislead the public according to CHKS Group, the UK's leading independent provider of healthcare intelligence and quality improvement services.

Mortality data for four procedures, (emergency and elective aneurysms, elective hip and knee replacement), will be published on the NHS Choices website. However, patients who undergo hip replacement are 100 times less likely to die than those who have an emergency procedure for aortic aneurysm. In addition, the total number of deaths following hip replacement is relatively small making meaningful and statistical comparisons very difficult. Patients undergoing hip replacement are much more likely to be concerned about the procedure having to be revised or subsequent infection rates.

CHKS Group supports the publication of mortality data especially covering emergency and elective procedures for aortic aneurysm which account for a larger proportion of deaths. According to a paper published in *Critical Care* in 2006 there were 2,721 deaths following 6,598 procedures for emergency aortic surgery over five years from January 1999 in 94 hospitals (see notes to editors). Mortality data for hip and knee replacement can also be useful but has to be presented in such a way that it is understandable and can be meaningfully interpreted by the public.

Dr Neil Goodwin, CHKS Advisory Board, said: "It is right that patients should be given information to help them make appropriate choices about treatment. However, the publication of complicated mortality rates for hip and knee replacement is likely to do little to help patients in this respect."

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**Notes to editors:**

1. CHKS Group Ltd is the leading independent provider of healthcare intelligence and quality improvement services to the NHS and independent healthcare sector. With over 18 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.

2. *Critical Care, 2006, 10.1186/cc4928* using data from Jan 1999 to Oct 2004 for 94 hospitals in England, Wales and N. Ireland

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