



PRESS RELEASE

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Northern Ireland sees dramatic reduction in asthma-related hospital admissions

A five-year analysis of hospital admissions has revealed a dramatic reduction in emergency asthma admissions in Northern Ireland by over 30 per cent highlighting the impact of specialist community teams working in partnership with hospitals.

The analysis, carried out by CHKS, the UK's leading independent healthcare information and improvement services provider, examined hospital admissions for two conditions, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Researchers found a downward trend in admissions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland over the last two years and a 31 per cent drop in asthma-related hospital admissions in Northern Ireland over the last five years.

Historically, admissions to hospital for asthma in Northern Ireland have been significantly higher than in the rest of the UK. However, a prevention strategy is now in place to reverse this trend. Community action teams and hospitals now work in collaboration to identify and treat asthma sufferers to help them to self-manage their condition.

Paul Robinson, Head of Market Intelligence, CHKS, said: "More and more emphasis has been placed on improving the management of long term conditions in primary care. It seems that this is beginning to have an impact in all three countries but Northern Ireland has seen the biggest reduction."

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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 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.

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