



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Latest analysis supports nurses' view that patients are being discharged from hospital earlier**

Data from a sample of 20 Hospitals for October 2009 supports the views of nurses that they are being put under pressure to discharge patients from hospital quickly. The average length of stay in hospital was 8 days which is 3.0 per cent shorter than it was for the same month in 2008 and 2007.

The survey of 600 hospital nurses carried out by *Nursing Times* ([www.nursingtimes.net](http://www.nursingtimes.net)) found that they are under increasing pressure to use underhand ways of meeting waiting time targets and keep the length of patient stays in hospitals down.

The length of time that patients spend in hospital is affected by the seasons and although all hospitals have attempted to reduce them, data going back to 2007 shows they usually increase in October. Dr Paul Robinson, head of market intelligence, CHKS, said: "Our analysis of 20 hospitals' data from last month shows there is definitely something happening to create a pressure to discharge patients sooner. The data also reveal that there has been a 5.0 per cent increase in emergency medical admissions."

- Ends -

#### **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 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.

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