



PRESS RELEASE

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Growth in hospital admissions varies by up to 28 per cent between PCTs according to CHKS

Latest analysis by CHKS (published today in the Health Service Journal <http://www.hsj.co.uk/news/> and available at www.chks.co.uk) reveals that the growth in combined emergency and elective hospital admissions varies from PCT to PCT by as much as 28 per cent.

Researchers at CHKS looked at total 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. CHKS also found that on average total admissions rose by 6.0 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 has been rising and, with the introduction of a capped or 'marginal' tariff, many hospitals will see a drop in their income next year. However, it will not reduce the cost to PCTs as the difference will go to the SHA."

"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."

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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.

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