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South Tyneside   
NHS Foundation Trust



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Embargoed 9am  
25<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

### **South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's clinical coders recognised for excellence**

Three clinical coders at South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust have received distinctions in the Institute of Health Record and Information Management's (IHRIM) National Clinical Coding Qualification exams and have each received a cheque for a £100 from CHKS, the UK's leading independent provider of healthcare intelligence and quality improvement services.

Allison Newbrook, Joanne Fraser and Fiona Ormonde were presented with their cheques by Rob Wake and Jean Crookes, senior consultants at CHKS. This is the third year that CHKS has made the award in recognition of the crucial role that accurate coding plays in improving the quality of care that is provided in hospitals.

Elaine Kilgannon, Cancer Services Manager, South Tyneside District Hospital said: "As a profession clinical coding is relatively new to the NHS but our team has taken on all the new challenges that have come their way. The latest ,and probably the biggest, was the introduction of payment by results and the addition of thousands of new codes. This has seen clinical coders elevated from relative obscurity to a high profile role. Our team is now an all-qualified group of dedicated staff who are a credit to the Trust and their profession."

James Coles, Director of Research and Corporate Strategy, said: "Clinical coding is the bedrock of service improvement in the NHS but it is often overlooked and coders are sometimes amongst the lowest paid in hospitals. We recognise the important contribution they make."

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**Notes to editors:**

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.

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