



PRESS RELEASE

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Wales achieves similar reduction in waiting times to England - without major investment

Analysis of waiting times has revealed that Wales has achieved a similar reduction in waiting times to England - without major investment, or by creating plurality of providers in the marketplace.

The analysis, carried out by CHKS, the UK's leading independent healthcare information and improvement services provider, reveals that waiting times for both countries have fallen at a similar rate.

Researchers looked at median waiting times (from decision to admit to date of procedure, excluding suspensions/deferrals involved in the official targets) over the last five years for the following:

- cataracts (the procedure given the shortest waiting time targets in England)
- knee replacement (for which large volumes were contracted out to independent sector treatment centres in England)
- hernias (a high volume, routine procedure)
- excision of the rectum (a routine, but usually urgent, procedure).

The results showed that waits for cataracts and knees replacements fell at the same rate in both countries but those for hernias and excision of rectum remained the same. CHKS also

looked at the wait for the 90th percentile (i.e. the time beyond which only 10 per cent of patients will wait) and found that waits in both countries decreased at a similar rate.

Paul Robinson, Head of Market Intelligence, CHKS said: “This analysis raises big questions about the strategy to reduce waiting in England. Wales has not made a large scale investment but focused on systemic tools such as demand & capacity planning. Did the NHS in England need to spend so much and did it really need to develop a plurality of providers in order to achieve its waiting time gains?”

Notes to editors:

CHKS Group 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.

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