



PRESS STATEMENT

09 March 2016

Learning and transparency must remain focus in new healthcare league tables

Commenting on the Secretary of State's introduction of Learning from Mistakes League launched at the Global Patient Safety Summit, Saffron Cordery, director of policy and strategy, said:

"It's well documented that there is a strong link between staff engagement and improved quality of care and today's announcement supports this through its focus on creating learning cultures and greater transparency. Trust boards are already committed to this agenda so we welcome this as one means of delivering safe, transparent and compassionate patient care.

"The information published today should be viewed alongside other measures including the CQC's inspection judgement on safety, and consideration must be given to the different types of risk and case mix which different providers are managing every day. For this reason, while benchmarking information is always useful, we would question the added value of the league table format. Being top or bottom of such a league must always be seen in the broader context.

"Purposeful change comes from within and it is crucial that NHS providers are involved in shaping how today's announcements are implemented at the frontline. The introduction of new measures such as this must avoid being about naming and shaming individual hospitals and be about helping providers maintain the highest quality care. The whole NHS system will benefit when those providing care are fully engaged – individually and collectively - in the process of performance measurement.

"NHS trusts and foundation trusts recognise there is always scope for further improvement but it is important to stress that the NHS remains one of the safest healthcare systems in the world. All NHS staff come to work to do their very best and are strongly focused on spotting and addressing poor care should it occur."

Ends

Notes to editors

About NHS Providers

- NHS Providers is the membership organisation for NHS acute hospitals, community, mental health and ambulance services
- NHS Providers acts as the public voice for those NHS trusts, helping to deliver high quality care by promoting shared learning, providing support and development and shaping the strategic system in which our members operate
- NHS Providers has 94% of all NHS foundation trusts and aspirant trusts in membership
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