

Press Release

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RUH in CHKS 40 Top-performing Hospitals for Third Year

The Royal United Hospital (RUH) has been named for the third year running as one of the 40 top performing hospitals taking part in a recent national study carried out by CHKS (an independent healthcare performance company). CHKS has revealed that patients treated at any of the CHKS Top Hospitals are safer and less likely to pick up hospital acquired infections such as MRSA.

The RUH is one of only three hospitals in the South West Strategic Health Authority to be rated so highly in the CHKS results; it is the fourth year that the trust has participated in the survey and the third year running that the hospital has made it into the top 40.

CHKS examined the number of actual deaths versus the expected number of deaths for each hospital and discovered that although overall mortality rates are falling across most hospitals, on average there were 297 fewer deaths than expected within each of the CHKS 40 Top Hospitals compared to 73 fewer deaths than expected for those outside this group.

The analysis also found that there were 12% fewer MRSA infections within the CHKS 40 Top Hospitals and that the use of beds was more efficient. Each hospital in the CHKS 40 Top Hospitals was typically able to save the equivalent of 48 beds for 2007.

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The CHKS 40 Top Hospitals announcement is being made at an award ceremony in Birmingham today. This accolade is awarded on the basis of 20 expertly-developed performance indicators that cover mortality, MRSA rates, cancelled procedures and complications.

Welcoming the award for the third year RUH deputy medical director Tim Craft says: "Ensuring the safety of our patients is part of our approach to providing top quality clinical care and remains our highest priority. Gaining the CHKS award for a third year running is a great tribute to our staff and recognises their contribution towards these priorities. The findings are consistent with other national assessments of patient care at the RUH; the 2006 Dr Foster Hospital Guide rates the RUH amongst the best performing hospitals in the UK for safety and quality of care, and the RUH recently received a top ten rating in the intensive care national audit."

CHKS chief executive Graham Harries says: "Hospitals using our benchmarking tools are working to achieve targets in a very challenging environment. Good news stories in the NHS are often overshadowed and we are proud to be able to highlight and reward some of the best practice and excellent work done in the NHS. These success stories should not only give patients faith in their health service but also reward staff for their dedication and efforts to improve their performance and provide the best possible service."

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