



PRESS RELEASE

7th October 2009 – for immediate release

PUBLICATION OF PATIENT SAFETY DATA NEEDS TO BE MANDATORY

Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) – the charity for patient safety & justice – has welcomed the publication today of organisational patient safety incident reports for NHS organisations in England and Wales by the National Patient Safety Agency. However, it is calling for it to be made legally binding for any organisation providing NHS services to report incidents to the NHS and to the patient or their relative concerned.

AvMA chief executive Peter Walsh said:

“Publication of this data is a welcome step towards greater transparency and learning to improve patient safety. However, the low rate of patient safety incident reporting from some organisations is a great cause of concern. Particularly worrying is that reporting rates from primary care services such as GPs are negligible and not identified in these reports.

We are calling for the reporting of patient safety incidents to be made legally mandatory in the new Care Quality Commission regulations being considered by Parliament this autumn. It follows that it should also be a legal requirement to report full circumstances of incidents resulting in harm to the patient or their next of kin. Not to do so would be a travesty”.

ENDS