



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**DR FOSTER REPORT UNDERLINES NEED FOR URGENT ACTION  
ON PATIENT SAFETY**

The patient safety charity Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) has welcomed the Dr Foster report "How safe is your hospital?" as further evidence that urgent action is still needed to improve patient safety, including a fresh approach to monitoring and regulation. AvMA's chief executive Peter Walsh said:

"Rather than quibbling about exactly what the figures in the report mean, the NHS, regulators and government should face up to the inescapable facts - we are not doing well enough at improving patient safety and a fresh approach is needed. At our charity every day we see the devastating human cost of getting things wrong in healthcare. For us some of the most disturbing facts are that:

- NHS trusts admit to not implementing 'patient safety alerts' which are sent to them - there can be no excuse for that. Our own enquiries found that only 54% of trusts still have not implemented the NPSA alert on injectable medicines - over two years since it was issued. **Prompt implementation of patient safety alerts should be made mandatory and serious action taken against trusts who fail to do so.**
- High mortality rates, whilst they need close analysis, are an important indicator of potentially lethal under-performance. **Each and every one of the underperforming hospitals should be thoroughly and independently reviewed as a matter of urgency."**

**ENDS**