



PRESS RELEASE

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BREAKTHROUGH RE NHS COMPLAINTS AND LITIGATION

Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA) – the charity for patient safety and justice, has had it confirmed by the Department of Health that the current bar on people having an NHS complaint investigated if they have started or intend to start litigation to recover compensation is to be lifted. The regulations which govern the new NHS complaints procedure, subject to parliamentary approval, will allow complaints and litigation to run concurrently for the first time. The move follows years of campaigning by AvMA. The new NHS complaints procedure comes into force on April 1st in England.

AvMA Chief Executive, Peter Walsh, said:

“We are grateful to the Department of Health for listening. It has always made a mockery of NHS statements about being open and responsive to patients to say to those who have suffered harm and need compensation that they do not qualify for the explanations and apologies which are a right of all other patients who complain about the NHS”.

ENDS