



**PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release 28.01.14**

**PRESSURE GROWS FOR FULL INQUIRY INTO PATIENT SAFETY AT  
PRINCESS OF WALES & NEATH PORT TALBOT HOSPITALS**

Welsh Health Minister, Mark Drakeford, is facing mounting pressure to widen and strengthen the terms of reference of the investigation of care failings at two South Wales hospitals. A "deep dive" review has already been commissioned, but it has emerged that its terms of reference are limited to looking at existing practice, at least initially. The patient safety charity, Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA), has been inundated with inquiries since it announced it is holding a public meeting in Bridgend on the evening of 30th January. The charity has had to arrange a bigger venue, with around 100 people expected. Anyone planning to come to the meeting, which starts at 7.15 pm, must reserve a place in advance by contacting AvMA: [karen@avma.org.uk](mailto:karen@avma.org.uk) or 020 8688 9555. Those unable to attend can register to be kept informed or contact the charity's helpline for advice: 0845 123 23 52.

AvMA has written to Mark Drakeford seeking an urgent discussion about a more robust inquiry including how Wales's so-called "Putting Things Right" complaints and redress scheme has operated. Many of the families affected at Princess of Wales Hospital Bridgend are demanding a full public inquiry. A police investigation into incidents at the hospital is ongoing, and "whistleblowers" - past and present staff from the hospital - have also started to come forward with their concerns.

Peter Walsh, chief executive of AvMA, said:

"It is vital that we get to the bottom of what happened at these hospitals and why, so that lessons are learnt for the rest of the NHS in Wales. The current "review" does not go anywhere near far enough. The experience of patients and families affected by poor care must be at the heart of this".

The meeting will explore what kind of investigation is needed; the possibility of a mutual support/campaign group for families; and independent sources of advice and support available to patients and families with concerns.

ENDS