

Professor Ted Baker
Chief Inspector of Hospitals
Care Quality Commission
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London SW1W 9SZ

By email: hospitalsconsultation@cqcg.org.uk
Ted.baker@cqcg.org.uk

8th January 2018

Dear Ted

Reporting and Rating NHS Trusts: use of resources – AvMA response to the consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We have restricted our comments to the questions we feel best equipped to comment on.

Question 1A

No, we do not agree with the proposals to incorporate an assessment of how well trusts use resources into the CQC's ratings of hospital trusts.

Question 1B

We do not think it is appropriate to confuse the issues of use of resources with matters of quality and safety. This would render the CQC rating system, the usefulness of which is already questionable, relatively meaningless. It is not that we think it is unimportant to assess how well trusts use their resources. Rather, we believe that this should be an entirely separate exercise. The CQC already has an extremely wide remit and should concentrate on quality and safety. NHS Improvement should deal with issues such as use of resources.

Question 2

The CQC should restrict its inspection and rating system to issues of quality and safety. Furthermore we are disappointed that the opportunity has not been taken in reviewing the reporting and rating system to consider fundamental changes to the existing system. AvMA and others have consistently pointed out that the current aggregation rules are inappropriate. It is not right that the current five questions are equally important. The principle of "First, do no harm" should pertain in healthcare. In other words patient safety should be the biggest priority. The current system allows for absurd situations such as a trust being rated "requires improvement" on patient safety being rated "good" overall. This damages credibility in the whole system and should not be allowed to happen.

Questions of use of resources should be assessed separately, by NHS Improvement, and be reported as alongside ratings on quality and safety.

Yours sincerely



Peter Walsh
Chief Executive