

PRESS RELEASE

USE OF RESOURCES ARE EXCELLENT, AND QUALITY OF SERVICES GOOD, SAYS HEALTHCARE COMMISSION

The Trust's use of resources is rated 'Excellent' and quality of clinical services 'Good' by the Healthcare Commission with publication of hospitals' Annual Health Check this week (Thursday 18 October). The Annual Health Check rates performance for 2006/07.

In addition, our hospitals' management of admissions was rated 'Excellent'. Other ratings were:

- Developmental standards
 - Safety = Good
 - Clinical & Cost-effectiveness = Good
- Focus on services
 - Heart failure = Bassetlaw = Good; Doncaster = Good
 - Diagnostic services = Good
 - Medicines management = Good
 - Services for children = Fair.

Nigel Clifton, Chief Executive, congratulated staff on these reassuring results:

"These ratings, by the independent Healthcare Commission, confirm the excellence of our services. Staff have made a real effort to build on our previous ratings to get good results on behalf of patients. I believe we succeeded at that and patients can be assured of the high quality of our services."

The Healthcare Commission commented: Based on our assessment, Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust continued to provide a good quality of service to patients. It was excellent at managing its finances and also made improvements. In a recent survey of trusts in England, patients rated this organisation as satisfactory in terms of their overall experience.

Use of resources

The Trust moved from Good in 2005/06 to Excellent in 2006/07. The Trust is in the top 28% of trusts with an 'Excellent' rating.

The Healthcare Commission said: This organisation performed strongly. Arrangements for managing the use of resources appear to be operating effectively and financial targets have been met for at least the past two years. This foundation trust has been given a score of Excellent for use of resources as Monitor [the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts] has no regulatory concerns regarding this Trust. This Trust received the second best financial risk rating from Monitor.

Quality of services

The Trust was rated Good in 2005/06 and again this year, among 36% of trusts also rated Good.

The components of Quality of services, and individual ratings, are:

- Meeting core standards = Fully met
- Existing national targets = Fully met
- New national targets = Good.

The Healthcare Commission said: This Trust was meeting all of the core standards set by Government. An organisation can only receive this score if it declares no more than four failings during the year. These failings must have been corrected by the end of the year.

Developmental standards

Developmental standards do not contribute to our overall Quality of services score. The Trust was among 32% of hospitals rated Good for Developmental standards - Safety. The organisation is currently undertaking a patient safety cultural assessment, recognised by the NPSA. This is to be completed and an action plan developed for improvement.

Working on Developmental standards means that staff are:

- developing better systems to fully integrate health and safety, clinical risk, complaints, clinical negligence, employment litigation, financial and environmental risk
- encouraging proactive risk assessments and use of the 'live' risk registers
- continuing to apply best practice for the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections, particularly *Clostridium difficile*, and auditing effectiveness.

The Healthcare Commission said: Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust declared good progress against the pilot assessment that measures how it has improved services in relation to the safety developmental standard.

We were rated Good for Developmental standards – Clinical & cost-effectiveness, among 34% of trusts with a Good rating. This includes:

- continuous improvement in all services

- the highest priority for improvement is to eliminate the unnecessary and inappropriate waits in patients' pathways of care.

The Healthcare Commission said: Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust declared good progress against the pilot assessment that measures how it has improved services in relation to the clinical and cost - effectiveness developmental standard.

Focus on services

The review of heart failure services looked at the way in which PCTs and this Trust, in their local areas, are providing services to meet the needs of patients with heart failure. The assessment is made jointly with PCTs. Service provision was rated Good in both health communities, Bassetlaw and Doncaster.

The review of admissions management looked at the experiences of patients, who are admitted to hospital for elective (planned) surgery or in an emergency. In particular, the Healthcare Commission looked at what happened to patients from the time that they were admitted to hospital until they were sent home. The Trust's score was Excellent.

Diagnostic services, including Endoscopy, Medical Imaging and Pathology services, looked at, among other things, how long people wait for the results of tests, the efficiency of diagnostic services, and the way in which healthcare organisations ensure that the services they provide are accurate and appropriate. The Trust's rating was Good.

Medicines management explored how hospitals are improving the way in which they work with medicines. The healthcare Commission looked at a range of issues, including what information was given to patients, how risks were handled, and the development of pharmacy services on wards in hospitals. The Trust's rating was Good.

Services for children in hospital were rated Fair. This means that the Trust meets minimum requirements and the reasonable expectations of patients and the public. Staff have developed an action plan to improve services, which includes new consultant appointments to increase input from specialists.

Full details of the review of admissions management and annual health check are on the Healthcare Commission's website:

<http://annualhealthcheckratings.healthcarecommission.org.uk>