



Picker Institute Europe responds to Sir Robert Francis's "Freedom to Speak Up" report

Picker Institute Europe welcomes the publication of the "[Freedom to Speak Up](#)" report. NHS staff are the backbone of the service, and their experiences are known to be related to the quality of patient care. But today's report shows that staff who raise serious concerns too often experience stigma and bullying in response. This is unacceptable. Providing the support and empowerment needed for health and social care workers to feel comfortable sharing clinical concerns is therefore fundamental to the delivery of quality care.

The forthcoming National Staff Survey 2014, the biggest and most detailed source of evidence about the experiences of NHS staff in England, is due for publication on Tuesday 24th February. This year's survey includes new questions about staff views relating to whistleblowing.

Question 19 is split in to three parts that focus on *raising concerns about unsafe clinical practice*.

- a) If you were concerned about unsafe clinical practice, would you know how to report it?

To what extent do you agree with the following statements about unsafe clinical practice?

- b) I would feel secure raising concerns about unsafe clinical practice
c) I am confident that my organisation would address my concern

The inclusion of these new questions means that healthcare managers will, for the first time, be able to access and compare people's feelings about whistleblowing on a national scale. The findings will shed light on whether staff feel comfortable raising concerns, and critically where this varies across England. This data will create fertile ground for both system wide and trust level analysis to establish why these issues exist and how they can be addressed.

Notes to editors:

- The NHS Staff Survey is co-ordinated by the Picker Institute on behalf of NHS England.
- The survey is sent to NHS staff from all occupational groups across all trust types. Last year over 200,000 people completed the survey.
- For further details about the survey, see www.nhsstaffsurveys.com or contact us at
- For all **Picker Institute Europe** media enquiries, speaker opportunities and recent news please contact:
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