



The Royal College of Emergency Medicine

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PRESS STATEMENT 27 November 2015

Launch of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine's Winter Flow Project

We are today launching our Winter Flow Project, which looks at system wide pressures impacting on the emergency care system over the winter of 2015/16.

Our first report, looking at the data collected since the beginning of October 2015, can be found [here](#).

Commenting on the project, Dr Cliff Mann, President of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine, said:

"Our work is looking at hospitals' performance against the four hour standard, and how this performance should not be seen in isolation, but alongside other important metrics such as: how many acute beds are available in the hospital; how many elective operations had to be cancelled; and how many delayed discharges are there at any given time.

We're looking at each of these metrics until March 2016, through the coming winter. We are determined to ensure we are able to continue to speak authoritatively about issues facing UK emergency departments.

Our data published today show that performance against the four hour standard has declined over the five weeks from the middle of October to the middle of November.

Our data show that 76% of hospitals are increasing their acute bed capacity. It appears as though hospitals are doing this in preparation for increased demand during the winter period. Regrettably elective care has sometimes had to be cancelled to cope with the recent increased numbers of acute admissions."

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Contact

For further information, or to speak with a spokesperson for The Royal College of Emergency Medicine (between 9am and 5pm), please contact Matt Chorley at matt.chorley@rcem.ac.uk or on 0207 067 1275.

For out of hours enquiries, please contact Gordon Miles at gordon.miles@rcem.ac.uk or on 07910 248393.

About the Royal College of Emergency Medicine

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine is the single authoritative body for Emergency Medicine in the UK. Emergency Medicine is the medical specialty which

Excellence in Emergency Care

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provides doctors and consultants to A&E departments in the NHS in the UK and other healthcare systems across the world.

The Royal College works to ensure high quality care by setting and monitoring standards of care, and providing expert guidance and advice on policy to relevant bodies on matters relating to Emergency Medicine.

The Royal College has over 5,000 fellows and members, who are doctors and consultants in emergency departments working in the health services in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and across the world.