

Improving data transparency

At HCA Healthcare UK, we believe it's in the interest of all patients that independent healthcare is measured in the same way as the NHS.

Patients in the UK access care across the NHS, independent and voluntary sectors. At present, there is divergence between how the NHS and independent sector providers like ourselves are measured, which can make it difficult for patients to compare the care being provided.

Amending this won't require any drastic changes. Simple tweaks can be made which could help us fall in line with the NHS.

Clinical data

If patient outcomes could be tracked measured and reported in the same way for those who receive care in the NHS and independent sector, this could enhance care quality and safety. Clinicians would be given a fuller view of their patients' journeys, supporting their care decisions.

What we currently do

We submit our data to all of the national audits and registries which we are able to and we want to submit more. At present, not all are open to independent hospital providers. For some of the audits where we do submit, our data is kept separate and reported differently or classed as incomparable, despite us meeting the same standards of care as the NHS.

What could change

We think the best way forward for patients would be to dismantle the barriers which stand in the way of independent hospital groups like ourselves submitting data to national audits and registries.

At first, we would welcome the opportunity to submit to the Hospital Episode Statistics, published by NHS Digital. The next step would be to gain permission to begin submitting our data in the same way the NHS does to national registries and audits where we meet participatory criteria.

Achieving data alignment will help support patients across the whole healthcare eco-system, enhancing the practice of medicine and furthering the improvement of human life.