

PRESS STATEMENT

October 25th 2011

A spokesperson for the Welsh NHS Confederation, said:

“Medical advances and new ways of treating patients mean that the NHS needs fewer hospital beds than in the past. Even though the number of beds is falling, the amount of care the NHS is able to deliver has dramatically increased.

“For example, treatment which always used to take place in hospital can now take place in the patient’s own home, such as dialysis, chemotherapy and blood transfusions. New ways of working also mean that hospital stays are much shorter, with many operations, such as cataracts, requiring patients to stay just for a day.

“It is important to note that the NHS is not all about hospital beds. We will always need beds of course, but the world is changing, patients’ needs are changing and the NHS is adapting to meet those needs. We must start judging the NHS by the number of people we make better and keep well, not just by the number of hospital beds and buildings.”

Ends

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Notes to Editors

- The Welsh NHS Confederation is the independent voice of the NHS in Wales. We represent all the organisations making up the NHS in Wales. All Trusts and Local Health Boards are members.