

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 27th July 2005

Performance Ratings 2004/05 - Three Star Hat Trick

For the third year running the Trust has been awarded the highest rating of three stars in the NHS Performance Indicators for 2004/05 which has been publicly announced by the Healthcare Commission today.

The assessment is a very rigorous one, covering a wide range of indicators, ranging from hospital cleanliness and infection rates, clinical outcomes, patient satisfaction with our services, feedback from staff, financial management and waiting times.

The Trust was again placed in the top band of performance in every one of these areas, making us one of the top performers in England. Nationally, the number of Trust's achieving the highest 3 star rating actually fell compared with last year indicating just how much more difficult the standard has become. Details can be found on the website at www.ratings2005.healthcarecommission.org.uk.

Particularly pleasing has been the very positive feedback we again received from patients independently surveyed by the Commission about our services and that, coupled with the award overall represents a real testament to the hard work and dedication shown by every member of staff who works at the Trust.

This is the final year of star ratings for Hospital Trusts. Next year, the system will be replaced by an even broader range of measures currently being devised by the Commission.