



THE ASSOCIATION OF ANAESTHETISTS

of Great Britain & Ireland

AAGBI response to the publication of the Berwick Report

August 2013

The AAGBI welcomes the publication of the report by Don Berwick's group entitled: "Improving the safety of patients in England: a promise to learn – a commitment to act" [1], and encourages all AAGBI members not just to read the report but to share it with colleagues. It is a concise and readable document that has the capacity to move the NHS forward from its current mood of self-deprecation and condemnation towards a much more positive and proactive era of acting positively and with pride to promote patient safety. The AAGBI particularly supports its recommendations related to:

- Abandoning the blame culture in hospitals and accepting that the learning that comes from analysing personal and system errors can lead to better patient care.
- Ensuring that there are adequate staff numbers to provide safe patient care.
- Calling on every healthcare worker to be a quality assessor, and to speak up to leaders when they see patients being put at risk.
- Hearing the patient's voice at every level of healthcare.
- Simplifying supervisory and regulatory systems.

The Berwick Report challenges all those involved in healthcare to "place the quality of patient care, especially patient safety, above all other aims". The AAGBI is proud of the part that it plays in promoting patient safety, joins with the authors of the report in making this challenge, and offers its full support to the recommendations made in the report.

References

1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/berwick-review-into-patient-safety>