



Announcement of methodological changes to Patient Led Assessments of the Care Environment – PLACE, England 2014

As a result of changes made to the assessment methodology and scoring algorithm used to produce the results for organisations submitting assessments through the PLACE process for two of the four domains, comparative analysis of results between 2013 and 2014 will not be undertaken.

Food and Hydration

A weighting element was introduced for the 2014 assessment programme which amended the scoring algorithm for the Organisational Questions component of the Food and Hydration assessment. In 2013 each question was scored on a scale of 0 – 2, but following the change the scale in 2014 was 0 – 3.9. This change was made following discussions with the NHS and members of the public who expressed the opinion that not all questions in the relevant section were of equal importance and that the scoring methodology should reflect that.

Privacy, Dignity and Wellbeing

The assessment methodology relating to patient access to television and radio was amended for the 2014 assessment programme which required this aspect to be assessed on a ward-by-ward basis as opposed to 2013 where it was assessed once for each hospital regardless of size. The result of this is that the maximum score for this element changed from four, to four per ward assessed, a number which varies across hospitals but typically is from one to 10 wards. This change was introduced following comments received from participating organisations that assessing this aspect only once did not reflect the fact that practice can vary from ward to ward within a single hospital.