

**LINKs and Patient Safety: the Patients
for Patient Safety project & AvMA**

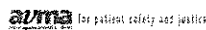
Peter Walsh



for patient safety and justice

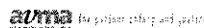
What is AvMA?

- Action against Medical Accidents - *"for patient safety & justice"*
- An independent UK charity formed in 1982
- Independent advice and support for patients / families when things go wrong – circa 4,000 enquiries a year
- Work with the professions, NHS, and DoH to improve safety
- Work in partnership with patients, lawyers, health professions to improve access to justice and good practice in dealing with 'medical accidents'



**What is the most important issue
for patients today?**

- CHOICE?
- WAITING TIMES?
- FOUNDATION TRUSTS?
- POLYCLINICS?
- PATIENT SAFETY?



IS THERE STILL A NEED?

- Never more so!.....
- Stafford
- Maidstone
- Learning Disability patients
- Birmingham Children's Hospital

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Patients for Patient Safety

- WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety initiative
- Patients for Patient Safety "champions" all over the world
- Bringing the unique experience and perspectives of patients patient safety work
- In England and Wales, a partnership between the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) and AvMA

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Progress so far

- Recruitment of 22 patients for patient safety champions – 2 for each SHA region and 2 for Wales
- 'Champions' for patient safety and for patient involvement in patient safety
- Engaging with SHA patient safety action teams in a variety of projects
- Establishing what goes on already, what works and where more needs to be done
- A priority theme – "Being Open"

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The Future

- Developing a wider network of patients / the public with an interest in patient safety
- At least one member of each LINK a designated member of the patients for patient safety network
- Sharing of good practice, ideas and mutual support
- Never letting patient safety or patients' involvement in it slip down the agenda
- MAKING THE NHS SAFER.....AND FAIRER

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

- Patients got Patient Safety on the agenda
- Patients must keep it there
- LINKs have a vital part to play!
- JOIN *patients for patient safety* – the growing movement for change now!

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THANK YOU!

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