



PRESS RELEASE from The Relatives & Residents Association

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'Star ratings don't add up' says national care home charity

The Relatives & Residents Association continues to be concerned at the price being paid for introducing star ratings for care homes, launched this week by the Commission for Social Care Inspection.

The annual report from the national inspectorate showed that over 40% of care homes for older people failed to meet the minimum standard related to the management and administration of medicines. However, CSCI claims that 70% of homes have an excellent (3 star) or good (2 star rating) and as a result will be inspected less frequently.

'Star ratings seem to be more about reducing the numbers of inspections rather than safeguarding residents. Most people calling us to want to see more inspections – not fewer. This new "information" may help people when looking for a care home, although that is only of value if a care home has a vacancy and is affordable. We worry about the people who live in homes that may only be inspected once every two or three years' said Gillian Dalley, Chief Executive of the R&RA. 'We are concerned that this new system will obscure the failure of some care homes to meet fundamental standards.'

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Notes to editors

1. The R&RA is the national charity that supports older people in care and their relatives, and campaigns for improved standards and better quality of life for all care home residents.
2. Quality ratings for care homes were launched 7 May 2008 by the Commission for Social Care Inspection.
3. *The State of Social Care in England 2006/07* is published by the Commission for Social Care Inspection, www.csci.org.uk
4. For further information, contact Gillian Dalley, R&RA Chief Executive, on 020 7359 8148 or 07971 055072, or Les Bright, R&RA adviser, on 01392 424696 or 07712 386846.

The Relatives & Residents Association, 24 The Ivories, 6–18 Northampton Street, London N1 2HY
Tel 020 7359 8148; Fax 020 7226 6603; Advice Line 020 7359 8136

Web www.relres.org; Email info@relres.org

Company limited by guarantee no. 2813362 and registered charity no. 1020194