



Statement on research into emergency medical admissions on bank holiday weekends

January 2013

Dr Frank Dunn, President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow comments on a study published in the *Emergency Medicine Journal* (23 January 2013) entitled “*Emergency medicine, deaths at weekends and the public holiday effect*”.

“Research into emergency medical admissions and the public holiday effect, published yesterday in the *Emergency Medical Journal*, is an important study which provides evidence of a poorer outcome for patients admitted as medical emergencies over long weekends.

“It extends what we already know about weekend outcomes.

“There are a number of explanations for this including the cumulative effect of diminished numbers of staff and services on public holiday weekends.

“It is possible that the patients admitted over holiday weekends are more unwell.

“I believe the findings of the report are genuine and that there is a need to put in place a consistent standard of high quality care throughout the working week, at weekends and on public holidays.

“The issue has been addressed by the Academy of Royal Colleges in regard to consultants, but also requires looking at support staff and the increased availability of key services.”