

## **SOCIETY FOR CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY (SCTS) STATEMENT: RESPONSE TO NCEPOD REPORT ON BYPASS GRAFT OPERATIONS**

The SCTS welcomes the contribution of NCEPOD to improving care patients through the publication of a report that was initiated by the cardiac surgeons themselves.

Patient outcomes for coronary artery bypass surgery are already very good in the UK with low mortality rates of just two percent, which compares favourably with the USA and rest of Europe. These rates have remained low even as, in recent years, cardiac surgeons have taken on higher risk cases. But surgeons want to do even better and asked NCEPOD's independent view on how this might be achieved.

SCTS is aiming to broaden the range of factors beyond mortality that we use to measure the success of cardiac surgery. This will include quality of life measures and the detail of this thorough NCEPOD report will assist us identifying how and what we measure.

Results for all cardiac surgical units are published on the web at:  
<http://heartsurgery.healthcarecommission.org.uk>.