

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

Ray Hearne with the attendees at the CCG AGM, 3rd June 2015, New York Stadium

A woman with a clip-board asked me nicely
Health priorities - what's your view?
I told her – if you want the answer precisely
Ask the patients they'll tell you

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

A stronger patient voice is needed
Says the re-jigged CCG
Though the notion's readily conceded
Is that what we'll hear and see?

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

Resources now are lessening and lessening
While the needy's numbers grow
Money-holders seen to be listening
That's the way it's got to go

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

We need a better conversation
Them with power and them with ills
Building up communication
Out of which agreement spills

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

And so good citizens of Rotherham
It's time to have your voices heard
Share your words and someone'll gather 'em
Making sure they're not ignored

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

Things that matter, can you list 'em?
Doctors, nurses, perhaps GPs
Hospital parking, or any bit o' t' system
Failing patients' families?

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

Well everybody praises the nurses

Though some surgeons get some stick
One elicited spluttering and curses
'Don't address us like we're thick!'

Talk to the patients they'll tell you
Waiting times still top the agenda
And referrals, that's what I hear
Mental health is the major offender
Sometimes it can be a year!!

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

You need to hear what's going to be happening
T' plans for seamless services
Strategies to minimise slackening
In some nooks and crevices

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

We're wasting millions on medications
Stuff we get but do not need
That's cash for treatment and operations
And all of us should pay good heed

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

So take a minute, if you're able
And you think waste is a pain
Visit the young folk at that table
Heading up the waste campaign

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

The aim is keeping all of us healthy
Out of hospital, off the wards
Treating the poor the same as the wealthy
Lots to do still in that regard

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

'Cos balancing the books is one thing
Inequality is too
But leaving a poorly patient wanting
Budget-setters must never do

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

Let's put the right care, at the right time
In the right place, so to speak
In communities day- and night-time
Any hour of every week

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

It's all about, (well I'd better just whisper)
What we've got could soon be gone
If the privatisers prosper
That's the battleground we're on

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

Imagine t' NHS were a railway
What we'd have is HS2
Smoothly gleaming links and pathways
Quality between and through

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

And we need to keep an eye on progress
That's what 'Healthwatch' tries to do
Working at the heart of the process
On behalf of me and you

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

So if somebody asks you nicely
For your stories, thought and views
Tell 'em absolutely precisely
There'll be plenty to peruse

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

And even as the weather is clearing
That's the question from today
Are they listening? Are they hearing?
It's what you do, not what you say!

Talk to the patients they'll tell you

Talk to the patients they'll tell you