

# Bickering 'led to 250 deaths' at heart unit

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Up to 250 deaths at an NHS heart unit will be reviewed over fears that bickering among surgeons led to poor care.

A leaked report found last year that "toxic" disputes between rival camps of heart surgeons had contributed to

extra deaths at St George's Hospital in south London. The Care Quality Commission found that the unit suffered from years of weak leadership, low morale and mistrust.

The watchdog NHS Improvement, which put the unit in special measures, has asked independent specialists to

study every death over five years. The hospital, which stopped taking the most complex heart operations last year, said that its current services were safe. Two surgeons were suspended after the report last summer. One was reinstated after telling the High Court she was victimised for raising concerns.