

Indicator Purpose:

The hospital standardized mortality ratio (HSMR) is an important measurement tool that compares a hospital's mortality rate with the overall average rate. Used widely in the United Kingdom and the United States, the ratio provides a starting point to assess mortality rates and identify areas for performance improvement. When tracked over time, the HSMR indicates how successful hospitals or health regions have been in reducing inpatient deaths and improving care.

Indicator Calculation:

The HSMR is calculated as a ratio of the actual number of deaths to the expected number of deaths among patients in acute care hospitals.

An HSMR equal to 100 suggests that there is no difference between the hospital's mortality rate and the overall average rate; greater than 100 suggests that the local mortality rate is higher than the overall average; and less than 100 suggests that the local mortality rate is lower than the overall average. HSMR All Cases includes cases that are deemed palliative (expected to die).

Data Source: CIHI Discharge Abstract Database (DAD)

Target Source: CIHI Benchmark

