Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR)

Resource for Indicator Standards (RIS)
Health Analytics Branch, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Indicator description

RIS indicator name
Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR)

Other names for this indicator
N/A

Indicator description

The hospital standardized mortality ratio (HSMR) is a “big-dot” summary measure that is used to track a hospital’s mortality rate over time. The HSMR is a tool that allows hospitals to measure and monitor their progress in quality of care.

HSMR is a ratio of the actual number of in-hospital deaths in a region or hospital to the number that would have been expected based on the types of patients a region or hospital treats. It focuses on the diagnosis groups that account for the majority of in-hospital deaths.

HSMR = (Observed deaths ÷ Expected deaths) multiply by 100.

A ratio equal to 100 suggests that there is no difference between a local mortality rate and the average national experience, given the types of patients cared for. An HSMR greater or less than 100 suggests that a local mortality rate is higher or lower, respectively, than the national experience.

Accountability agreement(s) or ministry initiative(s) the indicator supports
• Hospital Service Accountability Agreement (HSAA), 2015-2016
Additional information

Contact information

This indicator is calculated by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI).

For information on the methodology and for additional information about this indicator, please contact RIS@ontario.ca.

Date RIS document created (YYYY-MM-DD)

2013-01-28

Date last reviewed (YYYY-MM-DD)

2016-05-12