

Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR)



Resources for Getting Started

Looking for more resources to help understand and use your hospital standardized mortality ratio (HSMR)? Here are several starting points that may help you to become more familiar with the HSMR and determine what next steps you can take once you know your HSMR.

Part I: Understand the HSMR

1. CIHI's HSMR information sheets, "What Is the HSMR?" and "Using the HSMR," introduce the HSMR and how it has been used elsewhere.
2. CIHI's "HSMR Technical Notes" provide detailed information on the HSMR method used in Canada.
3. Brian Jarman's pioneering article in the British Medical Journal offers an overview of the HSMR methodology and its use in England (visit bmj.bmjournals.com/cgi/content/full/318/7197/1515).

Part II: Look Into Your Hospital's Results

1. CIHI's "Understanding the HSMR Report" information sheet provides an overview of the HSMR report.
2. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement's paper, "Move Your Dot: Measuring, Evaluating, and Reducing Hospital Mortality Rates," offers suggestions on how to save more lives by "moving your dot" (visit www.ihl.org/IHI/Results/WhitePapers/MoveYourDotMeasuringEvaluatingandReducingHospitalMortalityRates.htm).

Part III: Think About How to Improve

1. The Safer Healthcare Now! website presents many ideas on intervention tools and strategies (visit www.saferhealthcarenow.ca).
2. The Institute for Healthcare Improvement website has many useful resources offering strategies and ideas to help organizations improve the quality of health care, including:
 - The Innovation Series white papers, such as "Reducing Hospital Mortality Rates (part 2)," "Leadership Guide to Patient Safety" and "Seven Leadership Leverage Points for Organizational-Level Improvement in Health Care" (visit www.ihl.org/IHI/Results/WhitePapers/whitepapersindex.htm); and
 - Improvement Methods (visit www.ihl.org/IHI/Topics/Improvement/ImprovementMethods/HowToImprove).
3. Learn from the experiences of hospitals that have succeeded in lowering their HSMRs:
 - Bradford Teaching Hospitals Trust (visit www.jrsm.org/cgi/reprint/99/6/303).
 - Visit the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's "Improvement Stories" page for more examples: www.ihl.org/IHI/Topics/ReducingMortality/ReducingMortalityGeneral/ImprovementStories.
4. Other related resources can be found at www.cihi.ca/hsmr.



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