

Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR)

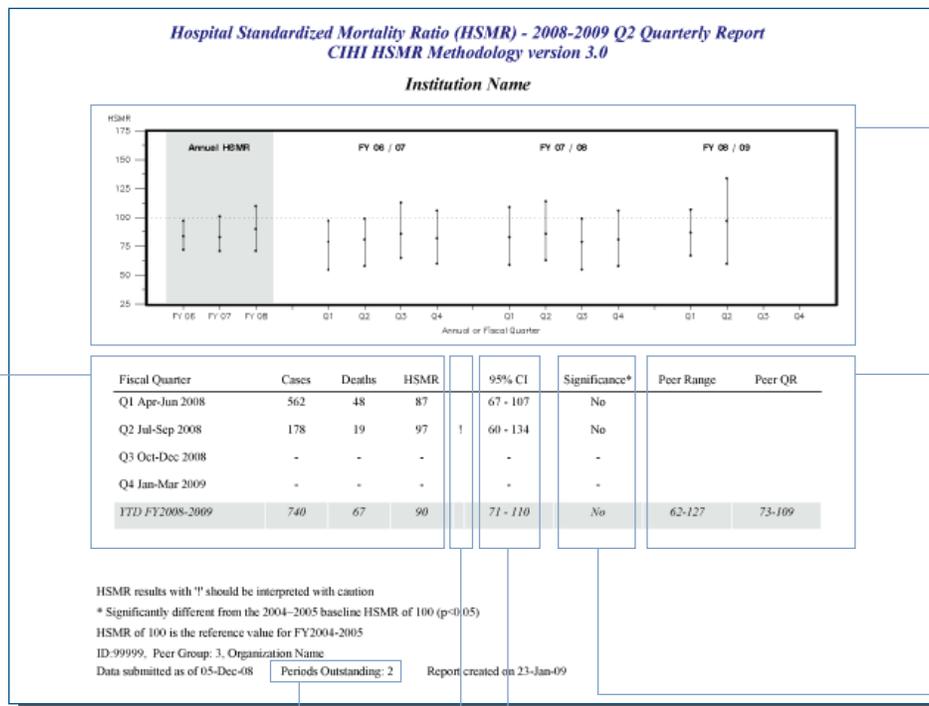


Understanding the HSMR Report

CIHI's **Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR)** Report provides a straightforward means of understanding the mortality rate for a facility and how it has changed over time. A description of the different dimensions of the confidential quarterly report is provided below.

HSMR

For each fiscal quarter or year, the HSMR result is calculated as a ratio of the actual number of deaths in a facility to the expected number of deaths for patients in acute care hospitals. HSMR (formerly referred to as HSMR All Cases) results are reported quarterly. HSMR cases include only those diagnosis groups that account for the top 80% of all deaths in acute care hospitals. *Note that a year-to-date HSMR is provided using data available for the current fiscal year.*



Quarterly and Annual HSMR Results

HSMR results are plotted for the fiscal quarter and fiscal year. A facility can track the change in its HSMRs over time, measuring how effective it has been in "moving its dot" and reducing mortality rates.

Peer Range and Peer QR

The Peer Range refers to the lowest and highest HSMR results within the HSMR hospital peer group, whereas the Peer Quartile Range (QR) represents the 25th and 75th percentiles of HSMR results for an institution's HSMR hospital peer group. HSMR hospital peer groups are developed specifically for use with HSMR data.

Statistical Significance

Statistical evidence of a difference between an institution's HSMR result and the HSMR national mean of 100 (for the baseline year of 2004-2005). The result is considered to be statistically different if the confidence interval doesn't include 100.

Periods Outstanding

This is the number of periods still outstanding (i.e. not submitted as of the deadline date).

Caution Symbol

HSMR results with ! should be interpreted with caution. The number of expected deaths is fewer than 20, meaning that a change in one observed death would change the HSMR result by more than 5%.

Lower and Upper Confidence Intervals

HSMRs are estimated to fall within an upper and lower confidence interval 19 times out of 20 (which represents a 95% confidence interval). The wider the confidence interval is for an HSMR result, the greater the variability in the result.



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