About this Release

Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios (HSMR) are calculated when mortality data are adjusted to take account of some of the factors known to affect the underlying risk of death. The HSMR calculation includes patients who died within 30 days from hospital admission. NHS Boards use HSMR information to help improve the quality of care and treatment.

Key Points

- The HSMR for Scotland has decreased by 15.9% between October-December 2007 and April-June 2014.
- The aim of the Scottish Patient Safety Program (SPSP) is to reduce hospital mortality by 20% by December 2015.

- Seven hospitals have already shown a reduction in excess of 20%:
  - Crosshouse Hospital
  - Forth Valley Royal Hospital
  - Queen Margaret/ Victoria Hospital
  - Ninewells Hospital
  - Southern General Hospital
  - Wishaw General Hospital
  - Western Isles Hospital

- Since October-December 2007, there has been a reduction in HSMR in 30 of the 31 hospitals participating in the SPSP.
Background

The HSMR is based on all acute inpatient and day case patients admitted to all specialties in hospital. The calculation takes account of patients who died within 30 days from admission; and includes deaths that occurred in the community as well as those occurring in-hospital.

\[ \text{HSMR} = \frac{\text{Observed Deaths}}{\text{Predicted Deaths}} \]

The Scottish HSMR for April to June 2014 is currently 0.81. Compared to an index of 1 this means that there were 19\% fewer deaths than predicted in the period. Analysis for Scotland indicates that by April to June 2014 there had been a 15.9\% reduction in hospital mortality since October to December 2007.

Deaths that occur in hospital may be inevitable because of the patient’s condition on admission. However, there are some deaths that can be prevented by improving care and treatment or by avoiding harm.

Information Services Division (ISD) has produced quarterly Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios (HSMR) for all Scottish hospitals participating in the Scottish Patient Safety Programme (SPSP) since December 2009.

Further Information

Further information can be found in the full publication report.

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