Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios
July to September 2017
A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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About this release
In this quarterly publication, Information Services Division (ISD) provides information on Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios (HSMRs) from 1 January 2011 to 30 September 2017. An HSMR is a measure of mortality adjusted to take account of some of the factors known to affect the underlying risk of death.

Main Points

- The HSMR for Scotland has decreased by 10.6% between January to March 2014 and July to September 2017.
- Belford Hospital (HSMR of 1.50) had a significantly higher standardised mortality ratio in July to September 2017 than the national average.
- Three hospitals had a significantly lower standardised mortality ratio in July to September 2017 than the national average: Western General Hospital (HSMR of 0.68), University Hospital Crosshouse (HSMR of 0.70) and University Hospital Wishaw (HSMR of 0.70).

Of the 29 hospitals reported, 13 have shown a reduction of more than 10% since January to March 2014:
- University Hospital Ayr
- University Hospital Crosshouse
- Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary
- Forth Valley Royal Hospital
- Inverclyde Royal Hospital
- Queen Elizabeth University Hospital/Gartnavel
- University Hospital Hairmyres
- University Hospital Monklands
- University Hospital Wishaw
- St John’s Hospital
- Balfour Hospital
- Ninewells Hospital
- Western Isles Hospital
Background

Hospital mortality measures have an important role to play in stimulating reflection on the quality and safety of patient care.

ISD has produced quarterly HSMRs for hospitals participating in the Scottish Patient Safety Programme since December 2009. The programme’s aim is to reduce hospital mortality by 10% by the end of December 2018. The methodology used by ISD was updated in August 2016.

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 hospitals.

**HSMR = Observed Deaths / Predicted Deaths**

The Scottish HSMR for July to September 2017 is 0.86. Compared to an index of 1.00, this means that there were 14% fewer deaths than predicted in the period. Analysis for Scotland indicates that there had been a 10.6% reduction in hospital standardised mortality since January to March 2014.

It is possible to see a decrease in HSMR without a corresponding decrease in the unadjusted rate of deaths per 100 patients (crude rate). This is because HSMR reflects variations in case mix over the period which calculations of crude death rates do not.

Please see [News and Updates section](#) of our website for more details.

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Further Information

The data from this publication is available to download [from our web page](#).

A [Technical Document](#) is available on how the HSMR is now calculated and describes the methodology used in more detail. A [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document is also available. For more information on HSMR see the [HSMR section of our website](#).

The next release of this publication will be 15 May 2018.

NHS Performs

A selection of information from this publication is included in [NHS Performs](#). NHS Performs is a website that brings together a range of information on how hospitals and NHS Boards within NHSScotland are performing.

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