



HOSPITAL STANDARDIZED MORTALITY RATIO (HSMR)

On November 29, 2007, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) released the first-ever public report on Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR) results for facilities in all Canadian provinces outside Quebec.

This year, CIHI is reporting one HSMR (previously referred to as HSMR All Cases). Patients admitted to hospital for palliative care—or who received palliative (or comfort) care for the longest portion of their hospital stay—were removed from the calculation. This measure provides a stable basis for monitoring trends and quality improvement efforts over time.

When tracked over time, the HSMR indicates how successful hospitals or health regions have been in reducing inpatient deaths and improving care. The HSMR is not designed to compare hospitals to each other or to guide consumers to a particular hospital. Rather, it is a tool that can be act as a motivator for change.

Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) uses the HSMR results to monitor performance improvements that reduce mortality rates. At HHS the information received by the HSMR helps to identify areas that could be improved and guides us to implement strategies to reduce mortality.

We have included the data that was released in November 2007 and will continue with the public disclosure of this rate as per the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care.

Halton Healthcare Services' HSMR Rate

The HSMR results for HHS applies to all patients who are in acute care beds, regardless of the level of care provided. At HHS we care for many palliative care patients in acute care beds and this practice contributes to our slightly elevated results.

The score for HSMR excluding palliative care at HHS is 85. It is becoming increasingly apparent that HHS' approach to the placement of its palliative care patients in acute care beds at OTMH is different from that of its peer hospitals and may be a contributing factor to our slightly elevated HSMR rate. HHS has designated certain beds in the acute care wards as palliative, whereas other hospitals have created palliative care capacity in complex care beds which are excluded from the HSMR calculation.

For more information about HSMR reporting, please visit the Canadian Institute for Health Information's website at www.cihi.ca.

2007	2008
107	109

How is the rate calculated?

The HSMR is calculated as a ratio of:

$$\frac{\text{The number of (actual) observed deaths}}{\text{The number of expected deaths}} \times 100$$

The HSMR is a measure that reflects the number of deaths observed in a hospital relative to what would be expected, based on the average Canadian experience.