



HOSPITAL STANDARDIZED MORTALITY RATIO (HSMR)

The hospital standardized mortality ratio (HSMR) is one of several patient safety indicators Halton Healthcare Services (HHS) tracks on a regular basis. It is an important measure which supports our efforts to improve patient safety and quality of care at HHS hospitals.

HSMR is a “big dot” indicator designed to track changes in hospital mortality rates. For HHS this measurement tool compares the actual number of deaths in our hospitals to the number that would have been expected based on the types of patients we treat. An HSMR equal to 100 suggests that there is no difference between a local mortality rate and the average national experience, given the types of patients cared for. An HSMR less than 100 suggests that a local mortality rate is lower than the national experience.

When tracked over time, the HSMR indicates how successful hospitals or health regions have been in reducing inpatient deaths and improving care. It helps monitor HHS’ trends and guides the organization to implement strategies to reduce mortality. 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 act as a motivator for change.

HHS’ HSMR score of 74 for 2011 is significantly lower than the Canadian experience and has continued to show improvement from the 2007 results. These results are very positive and reflect the ongoing focus on quality improvement and patient safety at HHS. The following initiatives are just a sample of the activities that have contributed to a safer, high quality patient experience:

- Safe Surgical Checklist
- Pressure Ulcer Prevention
- *SaferHealthcareNow* initiatives for prevention of Central Line Infections, Ventilator Associated Pneumonia and Surgical Site Infections
- The use of standardised Order Sets through Partnership with *Order Sets Inc.*
- Medication Reconciliation

Rates at HHS

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
107	109	78	63	74

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.

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