

Version 2, published 24th October 2011

Announcement of methodological changes to Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI) - Deaths associated with hospitalisation, England, April 2010-March 2011

Following release on 31st July 2011 of our initial methodological specification for SHMI, the NHS IC invited feedback from users on the proposed methodology to ensure that the specification had the clarity required. Around 40 comments were received. All comments were reviewed and, where appropriate, modifications made to the specification to clarify, further, aid user interpretation and optimise elements of the methodology.

An updated version of the methodological specification for SHMI was subsequently released on 31st August 2011. Further comments were received, reviewed and updated on the specification document.

It is this revised methodology which is now being released and will be implemented within the publication. A detailed list of comments raised and actions taken can be found here:

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/services/SHMI>

The SHMI publication will report mortality at hospital trust level across the NHS in England. This indicator will be produced on a quarterly basis and gives an indication for each hospital trust in England whether the observed number of deaths within 30 days of discharge from hospital was higher than expected, lower than expected or as expected when compared to the national baseline.

Further revisions to the methodology include:

- Additional information and details specifying how Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are joined to Office for National Statistics (ONS) death records and used to derive the indicator
- Inclusion of an additional field (YEAR_INDEX) to facilitate case-mix adjustment
- Updated Risk Modelling specifications to include logistic regression options for model convergence
- Updated Mental Health Trusts and Community Hospitals exclusion list
- Updated UK Specialist Hospitals exclusion list
- Amending the standardised residual to be based on the expected number of events for the random effects model control limits

- Amended the SHMI upper and lower limit calculations to be based on the expected rather than observed number of events
- Updated the SHMI banding requirements to report on two bandings:
 - 99.8% exact Poisson control limits
 - 95% random effects model control limits

The revised methodological specification can be found at the link above.