

Announcement of methodological changes to Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI) - Deaths associated with hospitalisation, England, April 2011 - March 2012. Experimental Statistics

The SHMI publication reports mortality at hospital trust level across the NHS in England. This indicator is 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.

Like all indicators managed by the HSCIC, the SHMI is subject to continuous review. Any comments received on the methodology are reviewed and, where appropriate, modifications have been made to the specification document.

A detailed list of comments raised and actions taken can be found in the SHMI Specification Issues Log from the link: <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/services/SHMI>

To support the interpretation of the SHMI, various contextual indicators are published alongside the SHMI. These contextual indicators use the same spell level data as the SHMI. The following new contextual indicators will be published from the October 2012 publication onwards:

- Provider spells split by deprivation quintile
- Deaths split by deprivation quintile

Full details of the construction of each indicator may be found in the Indicator Specification Documents, which are published alongside the indicators.

We are also finalising some analysis work undertaken to look at palliative care coding. The findings of this analysis will be made publicly available soon with the aim of providing some explanation to the current issues on palliative care coding and its relation to the SHMI.

Questions and feedback on the publication is welcomed. Please send them to enquiries@ic.nhs.uk or call 0845 300 6016.