

Announcement of methodological changes to Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI) - Deaths associated with hospitalisation, England, January 2011-December 2011. 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>

There is one revision to the risk modelling specifications methodology for this publication:

1. Changing the model-fitting option on SAS to RIDGING=ABSOLUTE and that all the model-fitting options specified in the methodology are explicit to SAS only
 - SAS model-fitting option RIDGING=NONE was specified in previous publications. For this publication, the methodology has been revised to use the SAS model-fitting option RIDGING=ABSOLUTE instead.
 - This methodological change is required to enable all 140 risk models to fully converge, thus producing more accurate estimates for calculation.

The revised methodology specification document (Version 1.11) can be found from the link above.

We are currently reviewing and collecting feedback on potential new contextual indicators for the next publication of the SHMI in October 2012. Details of the new contextual indicator will be made available nearer to the time of publication.

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 which will aim to provide 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.