

## **Announcement of methodological changes to Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI) - Deaths associated with hospitalisation, England, July 2011 - June 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/SHMI>

To support the interpretation of the SHMI, various contextual indicators are published alongside the SHMI. In November 2012 a small error was detected in the SHMI contextual indicator 'Deaths split by those occurring in hospital and those occurring outside hospital within 30 days of discharge'. The error was related to the methodology used to identify which deaths occurred in hospital and which occurred outside hospital within 30 days of discharge.

For the October 2012 publication (April 2011 – March 2012), the impact of this error is relatively small, changing the proportion of deaths which occur in hospital to 74.1% compared to the published value of 75.7%. The change to previous publications is of a similar magnitude.

A revised methodology specification document has been published and this methodology will be used in the calculation of this indicator for the January 2013 SHMI publication onwards. Full details of the construction of each indicator may be found in the indicator methodology specification documents, which are published alongside the indicators and can also be downloaded from <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/SHMI>.

There has also been a slight change to the methodology used to identify activity for the Isle of Wight. Prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012, all activity for Isle of Wight was identified by the organisation code '5QT – Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust'. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012, a new code 'R1F – Isle of Wight NHS Trust' was created following the transfer of provision of services from Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust to Isle of Wight NHS Trust. From the January 2013 SHMI publication onwards, all activity for the Isle of Wight will be reported

under the provider code R1F – Isle of Wight NHS Trust’. Full details of the processing used to identify records for this trust can be found in the SHMI indicator methodology specification document, which can be downloaded from <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/SHMI>.

Questions and feedback on the publication are welcomed. Please send them to [enquiries@ic.nhs.uk](mailto:enquiries@ic.nhs.uk) or call 0845 300 6016.