



## Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio

On 1 October 2009, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced that beginning April 2010, all hospitals would be required report their Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR).

The HSMR is an important measurement tool that compares a hospital's mortality rate with the overall average rate. Used widely in the United Kingdom and the United States, the ratio provides a starting point to assess mortality rates and identify areas for performance improvement. When tracked over time, the HSMR indicates how successful hospitals or health regions have been in reducing inpatient deaths and improving care. It is based on diagnosis groups that account for 80% of all deaths in acute care hospitals, excluding patients identified as receiving palliative care and is adjusted for other factors affecting mortality, such as age, sex and length of stay.

