YOUR MORTALITY RATE IS YOUR PULSE
(KEEP YOUR FINGER ON IT)
MEASURING DEATHS IS A GOOD WAY OF CHECKING HOW WELL HOSPITALS ARE CARING FOR PATIENTS

FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT MORTALITY RATES AT myhospitalguide.com/mortality

2012/13 IN NUMBERS

- 237,100 PATIENTS DIED IN HOSPITAL IN 2012/13
- 4,400 MORE THAN 2011/12
- 5,300 FEWER THAN 2010/11
- THE SECOND LOWEST NUMBER FOR TEN YEARS
“The NHS should use mortality rate indicators such as the Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratio or suitable alternatives as one of its ways to detect potentially severe performance defects that are worth investigating further.”

A promise to learn – a commitment to act (The Berwick Review), August 2013.
We then put hospitals into groups to highlight where the variation in mortality rate is unlikely to be due to chance. These are the hospitals where the data suggests there may be problems (high rates) or better standards of care (low rates).

### What are the different measures of mortality?

- **number of patients died from the groups of diagnoses within 30 days after leaving hospital:** Measured using our Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI).
- **how many patients died after an operation possibly went wrong?** Measured using our Deaths after Surgery indicator.
- **how many patients died from the groups of diagnoses (within 30 days) after leaving hospital?** Measured using the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI).
- **how many patients died in each hospital unit and what happened if we remove patients in community or longer-term care?** Measured using our site-level HSMR indicator.
- **number of patients died in each hospital unit:** Optionally looking at palliative care rates.
- **how many patients died who were under 18?** Measured using the Deaths under 18 indicator.
- **how many patients died after an operation possibly went wrong?** Measured using our Deaths after Surgery indicator.
- **how many patients died after dialysis possibly went wrong?** Measured using our Dialysis Patients indicator.
- **how many patients died from the groups of diagnoses (within 30 days) after leaving hospital?** Measured using the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI).
- **how many patients died in each hospital unit and what happened if we remove patients in community or longer-term care?** Measured using our site-level HSMR indicator.
- **number of patients died in each hospital unit:** Optionally looking at palliative care rates.
- **how many patients died who were under 18?** Measured using the Deaths under 18 indicator.
- **how many patients died after an operation possibly went wrong?** Measured using our Deaths after Surgery indicator.
- **how many patients died after dialysis possibly went wrong?** Measured using our Dialysis Patients indicator.

### How the data is used

- **HIGHLIGHTING HOSPITALS
  - how many patients died from the groups of diagnoses (within 30 days) after leaving hospital:** Measured using the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI).
- **how many patients died after an operation possibly went wrong?** Measured using our Deaths after Surgery indicator.
- **how many patients died from the groups of diagnoses (within 30 days) after leaving hospital?** Measured using the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI).

### Placing Trusts into groups

There are many ways to measure mortality. It is important to consider the following questions:

- **how many patients died from the groups of diagnoses (within 30 days) after leaving hospital?** Measured using the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI).
- **how many patients died after an operation possibly went wrong?** Measured using our Deaths after Surgery indicator.
- **how many patients died from the groups of diagnoses (within 30 days) after leaving hospital?** Measured using the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI).

### Assessing the information

- **LOOK AT INDIVIDUAL HOSPITALS WITHIN A TRUST
  - how many patients died from the groups of diagnoses (within 30 days) after leaving hospital?** Measured using the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI).
- **how many patients died after an operation possibly went wrong?** Measured using our Deaths after Surgery indicator.
- **how many patients died from the groups of diagnoses (within 30 days) after leaving hospital?** Measured using the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI).

### Exploring Community Rates

- **THE OVERALL TRUST IMPROVES ITS BANDING
  - how many patients died from the groups of diagnoses (within 30 days) after leaving hospital?** Measured using the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI).
- **how many patients died after an operation possibly went wrong?** Measured using our Deaths after Surgery indicator.
- **how many patients died from the groups of diagnoses (within 30 days) after leaving hospital?** Measured using the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI).

### Introducing the data together

The trusts listed are either high or low across more than one measure of mortality.
<table>
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<th>Trust Name</th>
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* † n/a – one site-level HSMR is higher than the trust HSMR
† n/a – one site-level HSMR is lower than the trust HSMR
Site-level HSMRs are both higher and lower than the trust HSMR