This publication compares the actual number of deaths following time in hospital with the expected number of deaths, using the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI).

The expected number of deaths is estimated using the characteristics of the patients treated: age, sex, method and month of admission, current and underlying medical condition(s) and birthweight (for babies). It covers patients admitted to hospitals in England who died either while in hospital or within 30 days of being discharged. COVID-19 activity is excluded from the SHMI (further information is available in the full release).

Between April 2019 and March 2020, there were around 9.3 million discharges, from which approximately 294,000 deaths were recorded either while in hospital or within 30 days of discharge for the 125 hospital trusts covered.

The SHMI was developed in response to the public inquiry into the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. It is used along with other information to inform the decision making of trusts, regulators and commissioning organisations. The SHMI is not a measure of quality of care. A higher/lower than expected number of deaths should not immediately be interpreted as indicating poor/good performance and instead should be viewed as a ‘smoke alarm’ which requires further investigation.

The SHMI cannot be used to directly compare mortality outcomes between trusts and it is inappropriate to rank trusts by their SHMI.

The 12 trusts with a higher than expected number of deaths were:
- Bolton NHS FT
- County Durham and Darlington NHS FT
- East Cheshire NHS Trust
- George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust
- Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS FT
- Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS FT
- North West Anglia NHS FT
- South Tees Hospitals NHS FT
- The Dudley Group NHS FT
- The Rotherham NHS FT
- Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS FT
- Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS FT

The 15 trusts with a lower than expected number of deaths were:
- Cambridge University Hospitals NHS FT
- Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS FT
- Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS FT
- Homerton University Hospital NHS FT
- Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
- Kingston Hospital NHS FT
- London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust
- Poole Hospital NHS FT
- Royal Free London NHS FT
- Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS FT
- St George’s University Hospitals NHS FT
- The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS FT
- University College London Hospitals NHS FT
- University Hospital Southampton NHS FT
- Yeovil District Hospital NHS FT

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See the full release at https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/clinical-indicators/shmi

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