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 of admission, current and underlying medical condition(s). It covers patients admitted to hospitals in England who died either while in hospital or within 30 days of being discharged.

Between October 2015 and September 2016, there were approximately 8.9 million discharges, from which 286,000 deaths were recorded either while in hospital or within 30 days of discharge for the 136 hospital trusts covered. This includes deaths from other causes as well as deaths related to the reason for the hospital admission.

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 10 trusts with a higher than expected number of deaths were:
- Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS FT
- Dorset County Hospital NHS FT
- George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust
- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS FT
- Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
- South Tyneside NHS FT
- Southend University Hospital NHS FT
- Weston Area Health NHS Trust
- Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS FT
- Wye Valley NHS Trust

The 15 trusts with a lower than expected number of deaths were:
- Barts Health NHS Trust
- 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 Healthcare NHS Trust
- Poole Hospital NHS FT
- Salford Royal NHS FT
- St George’s University Hospitals NHS FT
- The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust
- Torbay and South Devon NHS FT
- University College London Hospitals NHS FT
- West Suffolk NHS FT

10 trusts with higher than expected deaths, of which 8 were in the same category in the previous year.

111 trusts with deaths which were as expected.

15 trusts with lower than expected deaths, of which 9 were in the same category in the previous year.

Trusts in bold were also in the same category in the same period in the previous year. ‘FT’ means ‘Foundation Trust’.

See the full release at http://digital.nhs.uk/pubs/shmioc15sep16

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