

# Core brief

Tuesday 14 May 2019

## Introduction

This issue of Core Brief details information on Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios stats.

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### Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios stats

In response to the statistics released today on Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios, Health Secretary Jeane Freeman said:

“In 2015/16, we set out our aim to reduce hospital mortality by 10% by December 2018 and I’m pleased to say that it has reduced by 14%. It is clear that, along with a number of other contributory factors, the Scottish Patient Safety Programme (SPSP) is helping us reduce hospital mortality and reduce avoidable harm at every stage of care.

“We are in regular contact with Healthcare Improvement Scotland who support health boards in managing Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratios (HSMR) and have been reassured by their reports on the quality of care provided in our hospitals.

“We welcome the progress being made and the hard work of NHS staff in driving down hospital mortality rates. The end of this phase of the SPSP has presented an opportunity to consider how HSMR methodology and reporting can be refined and updated and we will see these changes in the summer.”

## Background

This is [ISD Scotland's last report on HSMR statistics](#) in its current form.

From August 2019, to ensure that the HSMR calculation is based on up-to-date data, it will be rebased to a new three year reference period of April 2016 to March 2019. The new methodology will future-proof the HSMR by ensuring it continues to reflect the changing case-mix and service provision of Scottish hospitals.

ISD will continue to monitor variation in hospital mortality from the Scottish average, however, and patterns in outlying hospitals will continue to be monitored over time. ISD will use more detailed, less aggregated specialty groupings within the modelling, in order to provide more detailed groupings that will enable further in-depth analysis.

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