

Summary Hospital-level Mortality Index (SHMI)

We wanted to update you on the latest developments of the new Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI)¹ following an update from the NHS Information Centre (IC) today (23rd September).

1. The timetable

30th September	Publication of final SHMI methodology (on IC website)
7th October	Publication of coefficients (to members of the technical group)
10th October	Restricted access given to trusts to view their own SHMI score and banding (whether low, average or high compared to other trusts) via the new IC online Preview facility
27th October	Publication of all trust SHMI scores (on IC and NHS Choices websites)
28th October	CHKS will produce bespoke reports for client trusts from 28th October

2. Has the SHMI methodology been published?

No. The NHS Information Centre (IC) has not yet finalised the indicator and no-one can accurately reproduce it at present.

The IC was given responsibility by the Department of Health to define the methodology and publish a mortality score for every hospital trust in England quarterly. Initially the IC set a deadline of 15th August for the specification of the methodology. However, problems with the specification led the IC to consult again and it is currently reviewing these comments.

CHKS is in weekly contact with Tim Straughan, Chief Executive of the IC, to ensure we have the latest information.

3. What happens next?

Once the methodology is agreed, the IC will run it across a large volume of data - up to three years - to produce the coefficients for each variable for each diagnostic group. These coefficients are an important element in calculating SHMI scores.

4. How soon will CHKS be able to replicate the SHMI?

No provider can accurately reproduce the SHMI without the final methodology specification, coefficients and access to the same data set used by the IC. CHKS will not attempt to replicate the SHMI until the IC has released the full statistical details of the model (e.g. the coefficients, specific patient cohort used and the precise weighting of each variable).

We are unable to release our bespoke reports until the SHMI scores are published by the IC on 27th October. CHKS will be able to provide bespoke reports for trusts from 28th October.

5. What analysis will CHKS provide?

The IC will produce a hospital trust-level mortality score only. CHKS will provide a more detailed analysis of performance and trends throughout different levels of your trust, down to patient level.

This is a new indicator which must be handled sensitively. Initially, we will provide bespoke reports for trust executive teams and performance specialists. This is to ensure that users understand the SHMI, the factors affecting the figures and why it may differ from other mortality indicators. We aim to integrate the SHMI into our online systems within four weeks of the IC's release of the final methodology and coefficients.

6. How can I find out more?

For clients, your CHKS consultant is always available for advice and support so if you have any questions please contact them. Otherwise, please contact us on 01789 761600 or email info@chks.co.uk

¹What is the SHMI?

The Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI) will be used as the national standard for reporting mortality across the NHS in England. CHKS was part of the steering group of industry experts set up by the Department of Health to review hospital standardised mortality ratios and make recommendations for a new methodology.