




Statement of Purpose: National Audit of Hospital Mortality

Title	National Audit of Hospital Mortality (NAHM)
Year established	Established in (NOCA) 2015
Web address	http://www.noca.ie/
Managing Organisation	National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA)
Aim	NAHM analyses the Hospital In-patient Enquiry (HIPE) data for purpose of identifying and trending mortality patterns in acute hospitals in Ireland
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand and improve the quality of hospital based mortality data. 2. Promote reflection on the quality of overall patient care. 3. Identify areas for improvement.
Overall function and purpose	NAHM analyses the Hospital In-patient Enquiry (HIPE) data for purpose of identifying and trending mortality in acute hospitals in Ireland. In-hospital mortality patterns have been used internationally as one indicator of the quality of care. While there are a number of similar ways of doing this, the standardised mortality ratio (SMR) is the most commonly used approach for looking at hospital mortality patterns within a country.
Summary of NAHM	<p>The SMR is the ratio between the observed number of patients who die in hospital and the number that would be expected to die in hospital on the basis of the overall national rate. It is based on the primary reason a patient is admitted to hospital. Importantly this does not infer the cause of death.</p> <p>The information comes from the Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) system, which contains clinical and administrative data on patients who have been admitted to hospital and is routinely collected by all publicly funded acute hospitals. Personal information i.e. information which could be used to identify a patient such as name, address and date of birth, is not taken from the hospital system and is not used in this audit. Patient confidentiality and privacy is fully protected in this manner.</p> <p>To ensure that “like is compared with like” across the diversity of hospitals, factors that potentially may directly influence the outcome are adjusted for in the analysis, for example, patient age and the presence of other serious illnesses to calculate the number of expected deaths.</p>
Target population	All admissions to acute hospitals, captured as in-patients on the HIPE. Excludes patients attending the emergency department, all maternity patients and patients who attend for day care.

<p>Data providers</p>	<p>Data from NAHM is provided by the Healthcare Pricing Office</p>
<p>Governance & Managing Structure</p>	<p>The NOCA Governance Board, is an independent voluntary board, convened to oversee and guide the strategic direction of NOCA.</p> <p>Individual NOCA audits are governed by a Governance Committee which makes strategic decisions relation to the audit, and oversees operational plans. The Governance Committee includes relevant clinical and management stakeholders and two patient public interest representatives.</p> <p>The NAHM Governance Committee is supported by two sub committees and an operational team. The NAHM Analysis and Display Scientific Team (ADST) provides specialist expertise for the development of the National Quality Assurance Information System NAHM web-based tool. An annual NAHM writing group is established to write the report.</p> <p>The operational clinical audit team (Audit Manager working with the NOCA Clinical Lead, and supported by the NOCA executive team) is responsible for the development, implementation and reporting from the audit.</p> <p>FIGURE 1: GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT TEAMS FOR NOCA AUDITS</p> <p>NOCA Governance Structure ■ NOCA Management Structure ■ External reporting ■</p>
<p>Legal basis</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HSE Contract with Hospitals NOCA identified in HSE contracts with hospitals as entity with whom hospitals should work (Schedules 1 and2). 2. Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and the HSE Quality Improvement Division. This SLA sets out the administrative and operational management of NOCA including costs and milestones per audit.

	3. SLA between HSE (Customer) - (NOCA being the agent of HSE) and Open App (Contractor). This SLA details the support and maintenance services to be provided for NAHM for information systems developed for the HSE's Office of the Chief Information Officer by OpenApp.
National Legislation & Standards	The National Clinical Audit complies with the following national legislation and standards; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data Protection Act 2018 • Information Standards for National Health & Social Care Collections (2017) • HSE National Consent Policy, (2017)
Inter-national Legislation & Standards	The National Clinical Audit complies with the following national legislation and standards; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Union General Data Protection Regulation 2018
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