

For Immediate Release:
December 20, 2010

Media Release

York Central Hospital has One of the Lowest Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratios Within the GTA

Hospital credits the use of leading best practices as key to becoming top performing hospital

Richmond Hill, ON – Today, York Central Hospital is pleased to announce it has the lowest Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR) within the Central LHIN and one of the lowest scores across the GTA. The lower the HSMR score the better a hospital is performing in reducing the number of deaths that might ordinarily be expected in treating patients with serious and life threatening illness.

York Central Hospital's score for 2009-10 of 75 shows substantial progress from its 2008-09 score of 98. A number of factors contributed to the hospital's improved ratio including:

- A Critical Care Response Team is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for all nursing units
- Careful tracking of hospital acquired infections and coordinated management of infectious patients
- An enhanced focus on practicing good hand hygiene
- Giving antibiotic injections at the right time for surgery patients and
- Improved documentation and coding to capture relevant information in patient charts

"These positive results are further evidence of the diligence, dedication and quality of care provided by the entire team at York Central Hospital. From physicians and nurses to cleaning and food services staff, everyone has a strong commitment to patient safety, such as practicing good hand hygiene which is of utmost importance for reducing infections and the spread of disease. The results of these concerted efforts, along with a number of other actions, are evident in our HSMR scores," said Dr. Larry Grossman, Chief of Staff, York Central Hospital.

The HSMR is a patient safety measure which compares a hospital's mortality rate with a national standard. It is adjusted for other factors affecting mortality such as age, sex, and length of hospital stay. The HSMR is used by hospitals around the world to help them identify what changes they may want to make in order to help improve patient safety and the quality of care and to track their progress over time.

The HSMR is a ratio of "observed" to "expected" deaths, multiplied by 100. A ratio greater than 100 means more deaths occurred than expected, while a ratio less than 100 suggests fewer deaths occurred than expected.

"York Central Hospital is devoted to delivering expert and compassionate care. I am very pleased that our hard work has resulted in the lowest HSMR score in the Central LHIN and one

of the lowest in the GTA. These results indicate we are heading in the right direction and are well on our way to achieving our vision of becoming the finest community hospital in Canada,” said Altaf Stationwala, York Central Hospital President and CEO.

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Backgrounder

About York Central Hospital

Opened in 1963, York Central Hospital is a large community hospital (472 beds) located in Richmond Hill providing Emergency, Inpatient, Ambulatory, Continuing and Long-Term Care services to a community of over 500,000 residents in Southwest York Region. In addition to the services it provides locally, York Central Hospital is the District Stroke Centre for York Region and is home to a number of regional services including: the York Region Chronic Kidney Disease Program, York Region Domestic Assault and Sexual Assault Care Centre, and the York/Simcoe Behaviour Management and Autism Programs.

About the Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio

The Hospital Standard Mortality Ratio (HSMR) is an important measurement tool that provides hospitals with a starting point to assess their mortality trends, identify opportunities for improvement and track their progress.

It is calculated by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), and the results are posted annually on the CIHI website. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will provide a link to these results as of December 30, 2008.

How is HSMR calculated?

HSMR = Observed Deaths
----- X 100
Expected Deaths

Observed deaths: Number of deaths in a hospital

Expected deaths: Expected number of deaths based on overall mortality in the reference year (2004-2005)

The HSMR is adjusted for other factors affecting mortality, such as age, sex, and length of stay.

Are HSMR results posted for all Ontario hospitals?

No, only certain hospitals are included in the CIHI reporting. Some hospitals' results were not included because they did not meet CIHI's sample size requirements (2,500 qualifying cases in each of the three years being released). The HSMR calculation is less precise when hospitals treat fewer cases.

In addition, specialty hospitals were not included because they treat a different type of patient. The information gathered from specialty hospitals would not be comparable to figures compiled by general hospitals.

How should HSMR be interpreted?

- An HSMR equal to 100 suggests that there is no difference between the hospital's mortality rate and the overall average rate;
- An HSMR greater than 100 suggests that the local mortality rate is higher than the overall average;
- An HSMR less than 100 suggests that the local mortality rate is lower than the overall average.

It is important to note that HSMR is not designed for comparisons between hospitals; it is intended to track a hospital's trend over time.