

NEWS RELEASE

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For release at 8 a.m.



Sunrise Health Region Once Again Excels in National Study

In a national report released December 10, 2009 Sunrise Health Region was identified as having the lowest Hospital Standardized Mortality Ratio (HSMR), of health regions reported and with palliative cases excluded.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) report studies the number of deaths in hospitals across Canada. Data was collected for all hospitals in the Sunrise Health Region. CIHI standardized the data it collects adjusting for several factors that may affect in-hospital death rates such as age, sex, diagnoses and admission status.

A mortality ratio of 100 is the Canadian average. A ratio of less than 100 indicates results better than the national average. Thirty-eight health regions were included in the report and, with palliative cases excluded, the HSMR ranged from 62 to 122. The HSMR for Sunrise Health Region was the lowest at 62.

“There is complex data collection and quality monitoring processes in health care,” says Suann Laurent, Senior Vice President of Health Services. “The HSMR looks at only one aspect but it appears that our health care team is leading the country in this area.”

“Having the lowest hospital standardized mortality ratio in the country is a source of pride for Sunrise Health Region,” says Laurent.

To be included in the report, a health region must produce sufficient numbers for appropriate comparison and reliability. Sunrise Health Region was one of three Saskatchewan health regions serving a large number of hospital patients and producing quality data sufficient for the study. Also included in the report and lower than the national average were the Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region with a hospital standardized mortality ratio of 72, and Saskatoon Health Region with a ratio of 86. The HSMR is most useful to individual hospitals to track their own mortality trends.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information is an independent not-for-profit organization that collects and analyses data on Canada's health system and the health of Canadians. The HSMR report is designed to help Canadian hospitals track progress in patient care

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For information about CIHI and the HSMR report visit the CIHI website <http://secure.cihi.ca>