



Quick summary for those in a hurry

QASM Report 2007-2016

The Queensland Audit of Surgical Mortality (QASM) Report summary is presented below.

PARTICIPATION

- 100% public hospitals (2016)
- 100% private hospitals (2016)

RISK PROFILE

- 57.2% (Male); 42.8% (Female)
- 87.1% (6,568/7,542) of deaths occurred in patients admitted as emergencies with acute life-threatening conditions.
- 89.6% (6,789/7,577) of audited patients had one or more significant coexisting illness.
- Median age of 76 years (range: 1 day to 105 years).

OPERATIONS

- 75.5% (5,743/7,604) of patients underwent a surgical procedure.
- 14.8% (849/5,743) of surgical patients who had operations had an unplanned return to the operating theatre because of complications.

INFECTION (FROM 2011 TO 2016)

- 34.7% (1,588/4,573) of patients died with a clinically significant infection.
- 57.2% (877/1,533) of those patients who died with a clinically significant infection acquired their infection during their hospital stay.

Note: this proportion is steadily increasing.

- *Staphylococcus aureus* was the most commonly isolated organism causing infection.

PEER REVIEW OUTCOMES

- 68.8% (5,804/8,434) of cases had no clinical incidents.
- The most frequent type of clinical incident was “a problem with assessment”.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PATIENTS

- There was a gap of 20 years between the median age of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients (57 years) and patients of a different ethnicity (77 years).
- Often resulting from delays in presentations, the timing of operations was more frequently a problem for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons (14.2%; 22/155) than for non-Indigenous persons (7.8%; 363/4,632).