

2008 Volume and Mortality for Selected Procedures

Vermont's Inpatient Volume and Mortality Indicators for Selected Procedures provide consumers with performance results by individual hospital for seven procedures during 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Volume refers to the number of patients who underwent the procedure at the hospital. Volume is important because the success of certain types of procedures may be related to the number of those procedures performed at the hospital.

Mortality refers to the number of patients who underwent the procedure at a hospital and died at the same hospital.

More detailed definitions of these indicators can be found in the Technical Guide.

No single source of information can be used to determine overall quality of care in a hospital. However, the information provided can be used as a stepping stone to evaluate medical care delivered by hospitals. Consumers should review these and other sources of information, and talk with their physicians, hospitals, family and friends, to assess where to receive care.

These indicators were developed by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). These particular procedures are shown because research has demonstrated a link between the volume of the procedures and the outcome of the procedures, including mortality rates.

Vermont hospital results can be seen for the following procedures:

Esophageal Resection - The esophagus is the tube that carries food from the mouth to the stomach. An esophageal resection is a surgical procedure to remove a section of the esophagus (usually because of cancer).

Pancreatic Resection - Pancreatic resection is a surgical procedure to remove the pancreas, the organ in the abdomen that supplies insulin and digestive enzymes. Pancreatic resections are usually performed to treat cancer.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair (AAA) - An aneurysm is a defect or swelling in the wall of a weak or damaged artery. The aorta is the main artery carrying blood from the heart to the rest of the body. Aneurysms that occur in the part of the aorta within the abdomen are called abdominal aortic aneurysms.

Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) - A coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) is a surgical procedure to bypass clogged arteries supplying blood to the heart. A CABG may be done to reduce chest pain, prevent heart attack or to treat other heart problems caused by blockages in the coronary arteries.

Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) - A percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, also known as a balloon angioplasty, is a non-surgical procedure to open blockages in arteries that supply blood to the heart. PTCA may be done to reduce chest pain, prevent or treat heart attacks, or to treat other heart problems caused by blockages in the coronary arteries.

Pediatric Heart Surgery - Pediatric heart surgery includes many different types of heart surgeries performed on infants or children under the age of 18. These surgeries are performed to treat congenital heart disease or other conditions that develop before or at birth.

Carotid Endarterectomy - A carotid endarterectomy is a surgical procedure on the carotid arteries in the neck to remove blockage and restore adequate blood flow to the brain and reduce the chance of stroke.