

Ranking hospitals based on preventable hospital death rates: a systematic review with implications for both direct measurement and indirect measurement through standardized mortality rates.

April 3, 2019

Manaseki-Holland S, Lilford RJ, Te AP, et al. Ranking Hospitals Based on Preventable Hospital Death Rates: A Systematic Review With Implications for Both Direct Measurement and Indirect Measurement Through Standardized Mortality Rates. *Milbank Q.* 2019;97(1):228-284. doi:10.1111/1468-0009.12375. <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/ranking-hospitals-based-preventable-hospital-death-rates-systematic-review-implications-both>

[Measuring patient safety](#) remains an ongoing challenge. This systematic review examined whether [preventable death rates](#) could be used as a measure of hospital quality. Researchers reviewed 23 studies and found that estimates of preventable in-hospital death are consistently low. Ascertainment of [preventability](#) was not consistent across multiple clinician-reviewers, and the authors estimate that cases would need review by eight or more clinicians to achieve the precision required. The authors conclude that preventable death rates would not be a valid or reliable measure of [patient safety](#). A past [PSNet interview](#) discussed the development of hospital standardized mortality ratios and their role in monitoring performance.