

Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc.



## NEWS

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### **National Quality Measures Show Decline in Mortality Rates in Wisconsin Hospitals**

**MADISON (January 4, 2006)**-----Mortality rates in Wisconsin hospitals were consistently lower in 2004 than in 2001 for 11 key conditions and procedures, according to information released today by the WHA Information Center, a subsidiary of the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA).

“Wisconsin hospitals place a high priority on quality improvement,” according to Chuck Shabino, MD, WHA medical affairs advisor. “The results from 2004 are a clear indication of that commitment.”

The 2004 statistics are included in WHA Information Center’s *Wisconsin Inpatient Hospital Quality Indicators Report*, which details hospital performance on a range of quality measures developed by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The mortality rates measure the number of deaths per 100 discharges. For each of the five procedures and six conditions measured, the mortality rate has declined since 2001. A list of the mortality rates is attached.

The most significant declines in mortality rates were seen for gastrointestinal hemorrhage (29 percent) and carotid endarterectomy (58 percent), which fell to 2.2 and 0.5, respectively. Gastrointestinal hemorrhage is a condition involving blood loss within the digestive system. Carotid endarterectomy is a surgical procedure to remove fatty plaques from the carotid (neck) artery to reduce the patient’s risk of stroke.

“There are many ways to measure quality, but when the measure is mortality, the quality of care may literally mean the difference between life and death,” said Dana Richardson, WHA vice president, quality initiatives. Richardson said that many of the mortality measures in the *Quality Indicators Report* align with the process measures tracked by WHA’s CheckPoint Web site ([www.wicheckpoint.org](http://www.wicheckpoint.org)), which provides hospital-specific quality and safety statistics.

For example, CheckPoint reports hospitals’ adherence to treatment protocols for specific conditions, including pneumonia, a life-threatening lung infection common among the elderly. Hospitals in Wisconsin have exceeded the national average on CheckPoint’s pneumonia process measures. Meanwhile, the

mortality rate for pneumonia in Wisconsin hospitals declined about 20 percent from 2001 to 2004, from 8.1 to 6.5 deaths per 100 discharges. "It is gratifying to see what we've always believed -- that good processes produce good results," said Richardson.

The full Quality Indicators Report is available on-line at the WHA Information Center Web site:

[www.whainfocenter.com/data\\_resources/2004\\_QI/2004\\_QI\\_Report\\_2004.pdf](http://www.whainfocenter.com/data_resources/2004_QI/2004_QI_Report_2004.pdf)

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Note: Mortality charts follow (one page of charts). If you need them in a different format, contact Mary Kay at [mgrasmick@wha.org](mailto:mgrasmick@wha.org) or call 608-274-1820.

**Mortality Indicators for Inpatient Procedures  
Risk-Adjusted Mortality Rates per 100 Discharges**

	2001		2003		2004	
	Overall	≥ 50 procedures	Overall	≥ 50 procedures	Overall	≥ 50 procedures
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) Mortality Rate	3.8	4.0	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.1
Craniotomy Mortality Rate	7.0	7.2	6.4	7.7	5.8	7.1
Hip Replacement Mortality Rate	0.15	0.21	0.23	0.25	0.13	0.16
Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty Mortality Rate	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1
Carotid Endarterectomy Mortality Rate	0.9	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5

**Mortality Indicators for Inpatient Conditions  
Risk-Adjusted Mortality Rates per 100 Discharges**

	2001		2003		2004	
	Overall	≥ 50 discharges	Overall	≥ 50 discharges	Overall	≥ 50 discharges
Acute Myocardial Infarction (Heart Attack) Mortality Rate	10.4	10.8	9.4	8.9	9.0	8.7
Congestive Heart Failure Mortality Rate	4.9	5.2	3.9	4.4	3.8	4.1
Acute Stroke Mortality Rate	13.6	13.5	11.5	11.3	11.4	11.4
Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage Mortality Rate	3.0	3.1	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.2
Hip Fracture Mortality Rate	3.5	3.6	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.8
Pneumonia Mortality Rate	8.4	8.1	8.4	8.1	6.6	6.5

Note: 2001 report produced by Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS). DHFS did not produce a 2002 report. 2003 and 2004 reports produced by WHA Information Center, LLC. For more details, see *Wisconsin Inpatient Hospital Quality Indicators Report*.