

Next steps

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Overview

- Obtaining a 'signal' of difference and change in hospital-specific adjusted mortality ratios
 - Doing it at all
 - Doing it better
- Interpreting and using the signal

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- Obtaining a 'signal' of difference and change in hospital-specific adjusted mortality ratios
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...doing it better

- Australian hospital morbidity data
 - Understanding them better
 - Using them better
 - Improving them
- International development
 - Enhancement & standardisation of methods
 - Infrastructure development
 - Comparative studies?

Australian Morbidity Data: Understanding

- Further analysis
 - Differences between jurisdictions, hospitals in information recording, interpretation, coding
Systematic differences?
- Variation of data on which case inclusion depends
 - e.g. palliative care; what counts as an admission
- Tests of coding quality
 - Probability samples of records → chart review
What's in the record? How was it coded?
 - Clinical coder consultation and survey
What's hard to code? Why?
 - Publish the findings

Australian Morbidity Data: Using

- Slice and dice: more specific strata of the data
 - Cases selected according to patient characteristics, diagnosis, procedure, type of facility, etc.
- Enhanced modelling
 - Which variables? Transformation?
 - Multi-level modelling of trends in annual HSMRs
- Longer time series
 - But data systems change over time

Australian Morbidity Data: Improving

- Present-on-admission flag
 - Now collected nationally; should be available for analysis in 2010
- Internal record linkage
 - One observation per person-episode
- External record linkage
 - Mortality soon after discharge (30d)
 - Outcomes other than death?
 - Analogy of trauma registers
- Additional information
 - Is anything usually present in records that would materially improve risk adjustment? APACHE?

International developments

- Collaborative enhancement of methods
 - Learn from methods used elsewhere
 - Time for a technical working group?
- Infrastructure
 - ICD-11: what would make it a better basis for HSMRs and related measures? Feasible?
 - ‘Palliative care’ specification?
 - Provision to record APACHE?
 - Analogy of duration of loss of consciousness
- Comparative studies?
 - Two types
 - Compare data and data properties (likely to be valuable)
 - Compare results (more challenging!)