VASM Executive Summary
Audited deaths (1 July 2012 to 30 June 2017) (n= 5,348)

Demographics

Age
- 1 day to 104 years
- Mean age: 73 years
- Median (IQR): 78 (66-86) years

Gender
- Male: 55.6% (n=2,973)
- Female: 44.4% (n=2,375)

Risk

Admission status
- Elective: 17.8% (n=942)
- Emergency: 82.2% (n=4,361)

Transfers
- Patient transfer: 20.6% (n=1,104)
- Transfer delays: 9.4% (n=104)

Preoperative death risk

- Minimal: 2.6% (n=138)
- Small: 9.6% (n=512)
- Moderate: 23.1% (n=1,235)
- Considerable: 43.6% (n=2,330)
- Expected: 11.7% (n=625)
- Unknown: 9.4% (n=508)

Comorbidities

- Yes: 90.7% (n=4,849)
- No: 9.0% (n=482)
- Unknown: 0.3% (n=17)

Total comorbid factors identified 14,703

Cardiovascular: 22.2% (n=3,271)
Respiratory: 11.5% (n=1,692)
Renal: 9.7% (n=1,427)
Hepatic: 2.5% (n=367)
Neurological/psychiatric: 6.5% (n=961)
Advanced malignancy: 6.3% (n=931)
Diabetes: 6.6% (n=974)
Obesity: 3.5% (n=521)
Age: 19.2% (n=2,820)
Other: 11.8% (n=1,739)
Top 10 surgical diagnoses

- Fracture of neck of femur 27.2% (n=769)
- Malignancy 23.2% (n=655)
- Cardiac disease 11.9% (n=337)
- Cerebrovascular accident 9.4% (n=267)
- Intestinal obstruction 9.4% (n=265)
- Aortic aneurysm 6.2% (n=176)
- Sepsis 5.0% (n=141)
- Neurotrauma 4.2% (n=118)
- Cerebrovascular 1.2% (n=34)
- Pancreatitis 0.7% (n=21)

Operations

- None 8.7% (n=466)
- One 68.8% (n=3,679)
- Two 13.9% (n=746)
- Three or more 8.5% (n=457)

Top 10 surgical procedures

- Laparotomy(-oscopy) approach 17.9% (n=1,287)
- Orthopaedic 12.1% (n=867)
- Wound care 10.5% (n=756)
- Cardiac 9.6% (n=689)
- Neurosurgical trauma 8.3% (n=594)
- Colorectal 7.8% (n=561)
- Other abdominal and hernia 7.5% (n=539)
- Thoracic and tracheostomy 6.7% (n=479)
- Neurosurgical non-trauma 4.9% (n=354)
- Gastro-intestinal endoscopy 4.4% (n=317)

Postoperative complications

- No complications 65.5% (n=3,200)
- 1 operative complication 28.5% (n=1,390)
- 2 or more complications 4.7% (n=230)
- Unknown 1.3% (n=62)

Infections

- Occurred in 966 cases.
  - Acquired postoperatively 71.6% (n=692)
  - Acquired preoperatively 16.3% (n=157)
  - Surgical-site infection 7.0% (n=68)
  - Other invasive-site infection 5.1% (n=49)
Trauma

Occurred in 1,224 cases.

- Fall at home: 39.5% (n=483)
- Fall in a care facility: 32.2% (n=394)
- Fall in hospital: 5.8% (n=71)
- Other falls: 8.9% (n=109)
- Road accident: 11.0% (n=135)
- Violence: 2.6% (n=32)

Unplanned return to the operating theatre

Unplanned return: 15.2% (740/4,882)

Audit Outcomes

Degree of criticism of patient management

Occurred in 5,348 patient surgical care cases.

- No issues identified: 70.6% (n=3,735)
- Area of consideration: 17.1% (n=907)
- Area of concern: 8.0% (n=425)
- Adverse event: 4.2% (n=222)

Most common preventable issues identified

Occurred in 817 cases.

- Operative management issues: 26.7% (n=218)
- Delay issues: 19.3% (n=158)
- Postoperative care issues: 16.4% (n=134)
- Preoperative care issues: 12.1% (n=99)
- Protocol issues: 8.6% (n=70)