

QASM CONSUMER FACTSHEET



Queensland Government

Australians have access to safe and high-quality surgical care.

DID YOU KNOW?



Queensland Government

The Queensland Audit of Surgical Mortality (QASM) is supported and managed by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) and funded by Queensland Health (QH).



All Queensland surgeons and hospitals participate in QASM.



WHAT IS QASM?



An audit of all surgically related deaths in Queensland.



An important way to ensure that surgical care in Queensland remains safe and improves.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF QASM?



To inform and educate Queensland surgeons.

To improve the quality of surgical practice in Queensland.

To facilitate appropriate changes in surgical practice.

HOW DOES QASM ACHIEVE ITS GOALS?



Data on the surgically related deaths are collected and analysed.



Annual reports, academic papers, and case studies are published.



All Queensland surgeons receive feedback on their QASM patients.

HOW SAFE IS SURGERY AND WHAT ARE THE RISKS?



QASM data shows that most surgically related deaths occurred in elderly patients with underlying health problems. They were admitted as emergency patients with acute life-threatening conditions.



Their causes of death were often linked to their underlying health problems.

Most surgically related deaths do not occur on the operating table.

HOW TO BEST MANAGE END-OF-LIFE CARE?



Good end-of-life care relies on good communication.

Before any surgery, ask for simple and clear information from your health professionals.

Plan ahead. Have an Advance Health Directive in place. For more information go to: <https://publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/power-of-attorney-and-advance-health-directive>

WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH POOR SURGICAL OUTCOMES?



poor heart health



poor lung health



obesity

HOW CAN YOU REDUCE YOUR RISK OF SURGICAL COMPLICATIONS?



Visit your GP regularly.



Have regular exercise.



Eat a healthy diet.



Stop smoking.

More information Email: QASM@surgeons.org