

The Western Australian Audit of Surgical Mortality (WAASM)

2019 REPORT



The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of Obstetricians
and Gynaecologists
Excellence in Women's Health



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

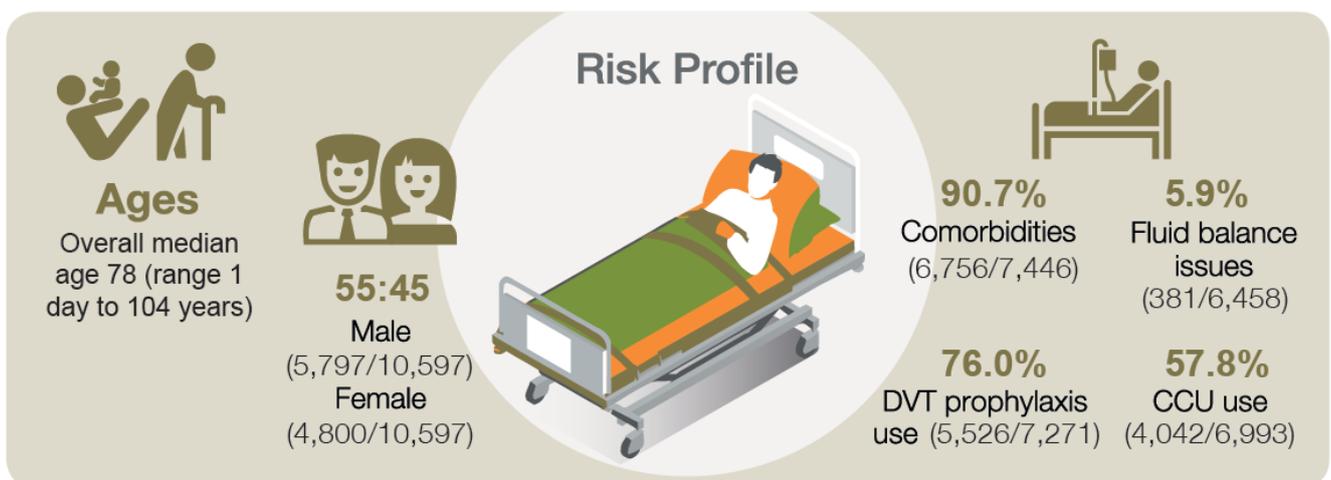
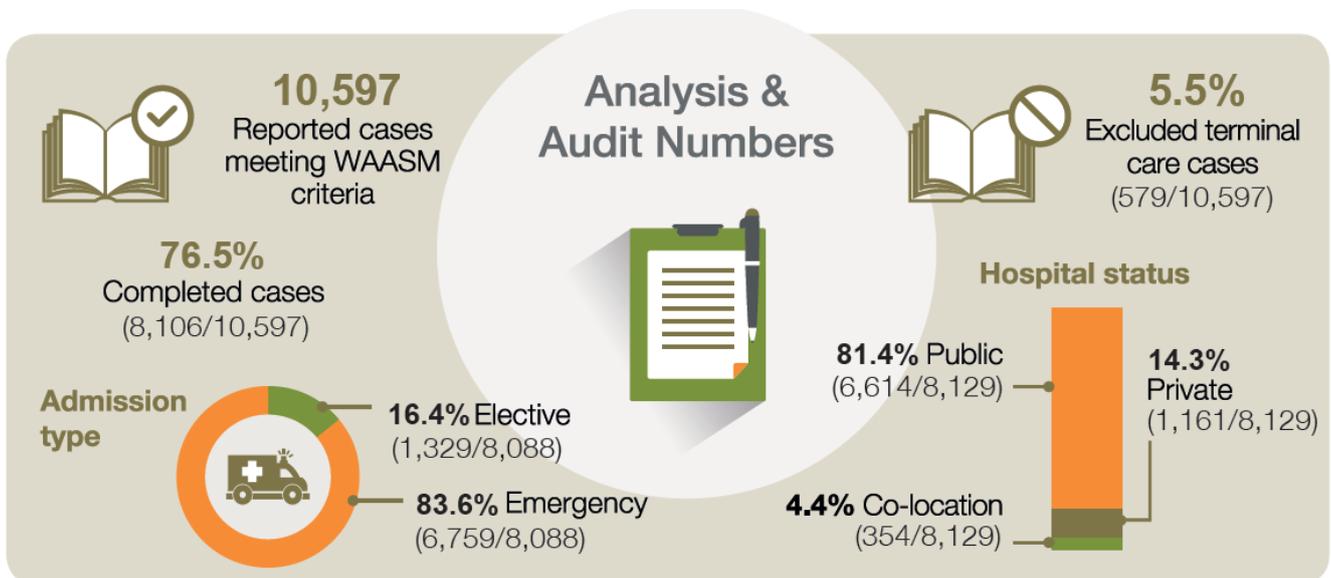
Background

The Western Australian Audit of Surgical Mortality (WAASM) is an external, independent, peer reviewed audit of the process of care associated with surgically-related deaths in WA. The WAASM was established in 2001. It is funded by the WA Department of Health and has protection under federal legislation.

Reporting period

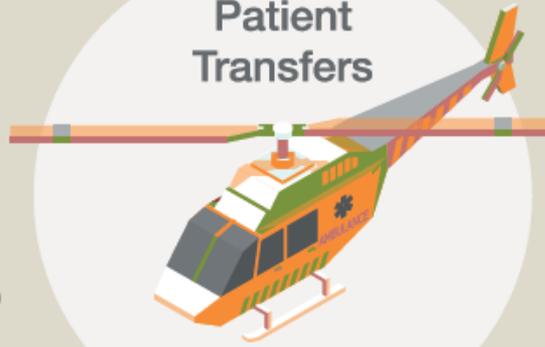
This report covers cases reported to the WAASM from **1 January 2002 to 31 December 2018**. Please note that for the data analysed, the denominator may sometimes change in this report. This is mainly due to incomplete information provided in the surgical case and assessment forms, which results in missing data.

As of 31 December 2018, 100% of WA surgeons and hospitals were participating in the audit.





Patient Transfers



27.1%
Patients transferred
(1,994/7,354)

10.4%
Delay in transfer
(192/1,844)

7.3%
Inappropriate transfer
(135/1,855)

2.5%
Inappropriate level of care
(44/1,753)

6.2%
Insufficient clinical information
(108/1,751)

69.5%
Patients that had surgery
(5,659/8,137)

5.8%
Operations abandoned on finding a terminal situation
(345/5,942)

15.8%
Unplanned returns to theatre
(731/4,636)

Operations



73.9%
Consultant surgeons who made the decision to operate
(6,601/8,935)

51.5%
Consultant surgeons who performed surgery
(4,599/8,935)



31.2%
Patients with clinically significant infection
(872/2,791)

Infection



Most common infections

39.2%
Pneumonia
(341/869)

25.0%
Septicaemia
(217/869)

20.9%
Intra-abdominal sepsis
(182/869)



22.3%
Cases with one or more clinical management issues
(1,808/8,106)

Peer Review Outcomes



32.7%
Number of clinical management issues
(2,653/8,106)

20.1%
Adverse events
(533/2,653)



28.6%
Definitely preventable adverse events that caused death
(79/276)

52.3%
Adverse events that caused death
(276/528)