

Definition of Relevant Deaths for WAASM

Deaths that are relevant to WAASM are those that occur:

- (i) After a surgical procedure during the last admission regardless of length of stay, where the patient died during the admission.
- (ii) Within 30 days of a surgical procedure if the patient is discharged alive from hospital
- (iii) Whilst under the care of a surgeon, but where no operation was performed (non-operative deaths)

Scenarios

1. Patient is admitted under surgeon or physician, has operation and dies during last admission regardless of length of stay.
2. Patient is admitted under surgeon or physician, has operation, is discharged alive, but dies within 30 days of operation (dies outside of hospital*, or upon readmission to the same or different hospital).
3. Patient is admitted under a surgeon, does not have any operation and dies during the last admission regardless of length of stay.

*These deaths may not be fully captured. WAASM relies on the treating surgeon to self-report the death when they become aware of it. WAASM's aim is to still audit such deaths if they are reported.