

Mortality Determination Categories – from the American College of Surgeons (ACS)

Old ACS Terminology	New ACS Terminology	Definition
Non-preventable	Mortality without opportunity for improvement	Result of procedure, disease, illness, injury; appropriate preventable steps were taken
Preventable	Unanticipated mortality with opportunity for improvement	Unexpected result that could have been prevented or ameliorated
Possibly (Potentially) Preventable	Anticipated mortality with opportunity for improvement	Result of procedure, disease, illness, injury; potential to be prevented or ameliorated

Opportunity for Improvement:

A realization that conditions exist in structures and/or processes of care where modification could reduce the incidence of real or potential adverse events or ideally, improve outcome.

Contributing Factors related to Morbidity and Mortality:	
Errors	Diagnosis
	Determination
	Interpretation
	Technique
	Communication
Delays	Diagnosis
	System inadequacy
	Protocol inadequacy
	Care inappropriate