

REPORT CARD	ORGANIZATION BIO	DATA SOURCE	SCORING METHODOLOGY	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Hospital Star Ratings (Hospital Compare)	Published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services	CMS' Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting and Outpatient Quality Reporting programs	1-5 stars based on performance on 57 measures	Draws on measures from existing required reporting programs Star rating may be easier to understand than individual measure scores Medicare is the single largest payer of health care services, and many programs tie a significant amount of dollars to quality	Recent studies have raised serious questions about the validity of the methodology The list of selected measures may not be fully representative of hospital quality, providing a misleading picture
Leapfrog Hospital Survey	Nonprofit organization representing employers, insurance purchasers	Unvalidated survey data reported by hospitals; additional data from secondary sources including AHA Health IT supplement and annual survey, Hospital Compare, HAC Reduction program, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Patient Safety Indicators	Grade A-F based on composite score from evaluation on performance in ensuring "freedom from harm": process/structure (how often a hospital gives patients recommended treatment for given condition/procedure), outcomes	Measures focused on patient safety issues, which are a key priority for hospitals	Use of deeply flawed claims-based safety measures in methodology Measure data may be up to 3 years old and not show more recent improvements in care VA, critical access, specialty, children's, mental health hospitals not included; arbitrary weighting of measures in composite score
U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals	For-profit company	AHA® Annual Survey (volume), Medicare Provider Analysis and Review (mortality), Medicare Standard Analytic File, survey of physician specialists	Ranking by specialty and by state based on performance on structure (e.g. volume, staffing), process (reputation among physicians, safety indicators), outcomes (mortality)	No application or data submission required Assesses multiple aspects of care	Reputational data alone may not fully reflect quality of care
Truven Top 100 Hospitals	For-profit health care research and consulting firm	MedPAR, Medicare hospital cost reports (all-payer), CMS Hospital Compare	List of 100 hospitals with highest achievement in scores on 11 measures including inpatient outcomes, process of care, extended outcomes, process efficiency, cost efficiency, financial health, patient experience	Variety of types of measures provides more nuanced picture of quality than just mortality or infection Compares hospitals in groups with similar characteristics (number of beds, teaching status, residency programs)	Bases risk-adjustment model on proprietary methodology that projects discharge data, so results of scoring are not replicable and internal methodology is speculative VA, critical access, specialty, children's, mental health hospitals not included
Consumer Reports Hospital Safety Ratings	Nonprofit organization supported by subscriptions	Hospital Compare, Leapfrog, specialty societies, AHA® Annual Survey	Score between 1 and 100 based on outcomes (infections, mortality, readmissions, adverse events), experience (discharge communication), practices (appropriate imaging, procedures)	Numerical score may be easier for consumers to understand	Reputational data alone may not fully reflect quality of care
Healthgrades	For-profit company providing information to consumers	MedPAR, all-payer state data	List of top 50 (top 1%) and top 100 (top 2%) performers on mortality and in-hospital complications by procedure that have received the Healthgrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence for a specific number of consecutive years	Rewards consistent, year-over-year quality Listing hospitals that have reached performance threshold avoids confusing, arbitrary grading or rating system	Limited measures used to calculate scores; only risk-adjusted for comorbid diagnoses, age and gender, and source of admission; inaccuracy of claims data 23 states have no hospital receiving award; to be eligible for Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Experience, hospital has to have evaluations in at least 21 of the 32 Healthgrades procedures and conditions
ProPublica Surgeon Scorecard	Independent, nonprofit newsroom that produces investigative journalism in the public interest	Medicare SAF	Low, medium, or high "adjusted complication rate": hospital readmissions for conditions plausibly related to surgery and mortality within 30 days for eight surgical procedures; symbol shown with rate for hospitals with at least one surgeon with a high adjusted complication rate	Focuses on surgeons, provides insight on specific specialties that might be more relevant for patients interested in certain procedures	Masks hospital-to-hospital performance differences; questionable accuracy of methodology (doesn't include complications beyond 30-day readmission, patient risk doesn't affect score) Claims data are notoriously inaccurate in individual provider assignments