

REPORT CARD	ORGANIZATION BIO	DATA SOURCE	SCORING METHODOLOGY	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
CMS Hospital Star Ratings (Hospital Compare)	Published by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)	CMS's Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) and Outpatient Quality Reporting (OQR) programs	1-5 stars based on performance on 57 measures	<p>Draws on measures from required reporting programs (so no additional reporting required)</p> <p>Star rating may be easier to understand than individual measure scores</p> <p>Medicare is the single largest payer of health care services and many programs tie a significant amount of dollars to quality</p>	<p>Recent studies have raised serious questions on validity of methodology</p> <p>The list of selected measures may not be fully representative of hospital quality, providing a misleading picture</p>
Leapfrog Hospital Survey	Non-profit organization representing employers and insurance purchasers	Unvalidated survey data reported by hospitals; additional data from secondary sources including AHA Health IT (HIT) supplement and annual survey, Hospital Compare, HAC Reduction program, AHRQ Patient Safety Indicators (PSI)	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), and Outcomes	Measures focused on patient safety issues, which are a key priority for hospitals	<p>Use of deeply flawed claims-based safety measures in methodology</p> <p>Measure data may be up to three years old and not show more recent improvements in care</p> <p>VA, critical access hospitals, specialty, children's, mental health hospitals not included; arbitrary weighting of measures in composite score</p>
US News & World Report Best Hospitals	For-profit company	AHA Annual Survey (volume), Medicare Provider Analysis and Review (MedPAR) (mortality); Medicare Standard Analytic File (SAF); survey of physician specialists	Ranking by specialty and by state based on performance on structure (volume, staffing, other resources), process (reputation among physicians, patient 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, and patient experience	<p>Variety of types of measures provides more nuanced picture of quality than just mortality or infection</p> <p>Compares hospitals in groups with similar characteristics (bed size, teaching status, extent of residency/fellowship program)</p>	<p>Bases risk-adjustment model on proprietary methodology that projects discharge data, so results of scoring are not replicable and internal methodology is speculative</p> <p>VA, critical access hospitals, specialty, children's, mental health hospitals not included</p>
Consumer Reports Hospital Safety Ratings	Non-profit organization supported by subscriptions	Hospital Compare, Leapfrog, specialty societies, AHA annual survey	Score between 1-100 (higher is better) based on Performance on outcomes (infections, mortality, readmissions, adverse surgical events); Experience (communication about discharge, drug information); Practices (appropriate use of scanning, avoiding C-sections)	Numerical score may be easier for consumers to understand	<p>Overall score not fully reflective of overall hospital quality</p> <p>Some underlying measures (CT imaging, mortality, readmission) have reliability and validity problems; uses unvalidated Leapfrog survey data</p>
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 who have received the Healthgrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence for a specific number of consecutive years	<p>Rewards consistent, year-over-year quality</p> <p>Listing hospitals that have reached performance threshold avoids confusing, arbitrary grading or rating system What does "list system" mean?</p>	<p>Limited measures used to calculate scores; only risk-adjusted for comorbid diagnoses, age and gender, and source of admission; Inaccuracy of claims data.</p> <p>23 states have no hospital receiving award; to be eligible for Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence, hospital has to have evaluations in at least 21 of the 32 Healthgrades procedures and conditions using Medicare inpatient data</p>
ProPublica Surgeon Scorecard	Independent, non-profit newsroom that produces investigative journalism in the public interest.	Medicare Standard Analytic File (SAF) Please spell out 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; exclamation point symbol shown with rate for hospitals with at least one surgeon with a high adjusted complication rate	Uniquely focuses on surgeons, provides insight on specific specialties that might be more relevant for patients interested in those procedures	<p>Masks hospital-to-hospital performance differences; questionable accuracy of methodology (doesn't include complications beyond those accompanied with 30-day readmission, patient risk doesn't affect score);</p> <p>Claims data are notoriously inaccurate in individual provider assignments</p>