



Why Awards and Ratings from HealthGrades Matter



"The hospitals that have been designated as Distinguished Hospitals for Clinical Excellence™ have, across the board, been leaders in their commitment to delivering the highest quality patient care. Consumers can choose where they receive their healthcare, and our study again highlights the tremendous disparity in quality between hospitals," said Samantha Collier, MD, HealthGrades Chief Medical Officer.

HealthGrades is the nation's leading independent healthcare ratings organization. Every year, the company evaluates and rates the clinical quality of the nation's approximately 5,000 non-federal hospitals, based on an analysis of more than 40 million Medicare patient records. The HealthGrades rating system uses only objective criteria – hospital mortality and other major complication rates – and risk-adjusts the analysis to take into account the age and sickness of the hospital's patients. The rating system automatically includes every hospital that reports to Medicare. Hospitals cannot apply for any HealthGrades award, and no hospital can opt out of the evaluation.

In its Eleventh Annual Hospital Quality in America study, HealthGrades found that patients treated at the nation's top-rated hospitals had a 70% lower chance of dying compared with the lowest-rated hospitals. The nation's best performing hospitals were able to reduce preventable deaths at a much faster rate than poorer performing hospitals.

HealthGrades evaluates more than two dozen common medical procedures and conditions, ranging from the treatment of heart attack and pneumonia to gastrointestinal surgery. The organization awards five stars to hospitals that perform in a manner that is significantly better than expected.

Recipients of the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™ are those identified in the top five percent nationally across all conditions and procedures studied.

