

MANY WAYS TO DEFINE "THE BEST": HOSPITAL RANKING, AWARD, AND DISTINCTION PROGRAMS

Name	Sponsor	Year Began	Description	Consistency (% of winners were winners in 2008)
Best Hospitals Honor Roll	<i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	1990	<p>In 2008, analyzed data on 5,453 medical centers across 16 specialty rankings. For the 12 specialties that are data-driven, each hospital was rated based on reputation, mortality index, and other care-related factors (including technology, volume, nurse staffing, and other patient-related information). The 50 hospitals with the highest scores were ranked. The remaining four specialties were based on reputation alone (a mortality index wasn't meaningful for these specialties) Ranked hospitals were cited by at least 3 percent of responding physicians.</p> <p>Honor Roll hospitals are those that ranked at or near the top in at least six specialties. Only 170 hospitals scored high enough to appear in any of the specialty rankings, and only 19 of these qualified for ranking in the Honor Roll.</p> <p>http://health.usnews.com/sections/health/best-hospitals</p>	95%
Top Hospitals; Performance Improvement Leaders	Thomson Reuters	1994; 2004	<p>Uses two most recent years of data to benchmark management and clinical outcomes, using objective statistical analyses of public data sources. For the "Performance Improvement Leaders," performance is measured relative to the starting point—in other words, high performance doesn't matter, only improvement. After exclusions, 3,018 hospitals were studied for the "Top Hospitals" and 2,867 hospitals were studied for the "Performance Improvement Leaders." Hospitals are then scored on a set of weighted performance measures that attempt to depict clinical excellence, operating efficiency and financial health, and responsiveness to the community. The top 100 hospitals for each survey are ranked (including 15 major teaching, 25 teaching, and 20 large, medium, and small community hospitals).</p> <p>http://www.100tophospitals.com/</p>	46% 38%
America's 50 Best Hospitals (Distinguished Hospitals)	HealthGrades	2007; 2003	<p>The DHA-CE is based on a predictive logistic regression model of 27 procedures/diagnoses to analyze mortality and complication-based outcomes. These results determine the hospitals selected for the DHA-CE. The Best Hospitals are the hospitals that received the DHA-CE for the most consecutive years from 2003 to 2008.</p>	90% (Methodology is based on reputation and performance)

Award – Clinical Excellence)			http://www.healthgrades.com/media/dms/pdf/Americas50BestHospitals2008Report.pdf	
Top Hospitals	Leapfrog Group	2000	<p>The Leapfrog group distributes a self-administered patient safety survey, to which over 1,300 hospitals submit information. The survey is divided into four categories ("leaps") of hospital quality and safety: computerized physician order entry (CPOE), evidence-based Hospital Referral (EBHR), ICU physician staffing, and a safe practices score. These sections include 16 of the 30 National Quality Forum's <i>Safe Practices for Better Healthcare 2006 Update</i>. A scoring algorithm is utilized to determine whether each leap met the relevant criteria. These scores are used to determine the list of Top Hospitals.</p> <p>http://www.leapfroggroup.org/</p>	54
Consumer Choice Award	National Research Corporation	1996/97	<p>The NRC Healthcare Market Guide is conducted to help health care providers, payers, and purchasers gain a greater understanding of their consumers. It contains data on consumer surveys from over 200,000 households representing 450,000 consumers, and includes ratings on more than 3,200 hospitals, health systems, and other providers, and over 800 health plans.</p> <p>The hospital and health care systems section looks at the following criteria: Quality/Image Profile, Last Visit Market Share, Hospital Advertising, Cost Loyalty, Hospital Selection, Product Line Preference, Outpatient Services, Hospital Branding, System Branding, Visit Satisfaction, Outmigration of Healthcare Services, and Hospital Report Cards. U.S. Consumer Choice Awards are based on consumer preference/perceptions of these quality and image ratings. NRC annually selects the most-preferred hospitals in over 190 U.S. markets among hospitals that rank highest in their metropolitan statistical areas.</p> <p>http://hcmg.nationalresearch.com/Default.aspx?DN=7,1,Documents</p>	89

Most Wired Hospitals	<i>Hospitals & Health Networks</i>	1999	<p>Hospitals are selected based on the results of the "Most Wired Survey and Benchmarking Study." The survey asks hospitals to report on how they use information technology to address five key areas: safety and quality, customer service, business processes, workforce, and public health and safety. The results are the basis of several awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 Most Wired--The 100 organizations that scored highest on the survey. • The Most Wireless--The 25 organizations that scored highest on the survey questions focused on wireless applications. • The Most Improved--The 25 organizations not appearing on the Most Wired list whose score improved the most from the previous year. • The Most Wired: <i>Small and Rural</i>--The 25 small and rural organizations not appearing on the Most Wired list that scored highest on the survey. • <i>H&HN</i> has also recognized six organizations with Innovator Awards, which are a joint project of <i>H&HN</i>, IDX, Cisco Systems, and CHIME. Hospitals submit descriptions of innovative projects that are then evaluated by an expert panel. <p>http://www.hhnmag.com/hhnmag_app/jsp/articledisplay.jsp?dcrpath=HHNMAG/Article/data/07JUL2008/0807HHN_CoverStory_Landing&domain=HHNMAG</p>	70
Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award	Established by Congress, presented by the President	1987	<p>Awards successful performance strategies, promotes quality awareness, and recognizes quality and business achievements of U.S. organizations. Given annually in the areas of manufacturing, service, small business, education, and health care.</p> <p>http://www.quality.nist.gov/</p>	N/A
John M. Eisenberg Award for Patient Safety and Quality	Joint Commission	2002	<p>Recognizes achievements in improving patient safety and quality, presented in the areas of system innovation (local and national) or research.</p> <p>http://www.jointcommission.org/PatientSafety/EisenbergAward/</p>	N/A
Ernest Amory Codman Award	Joint Commission	1997	<p>Recognizes achievements in the use of process and outcome measures to improve organization performance and quality of care.</p> <p>http://www.jointcommissioncodman.org/</p>	N/A

Quest for Quality Prize	American Hospital Association, supported by grants from the McKesson Corporation	2002	Recognizes leadership and innovation in quality, safety, and commitment to patient care. http://www.aha.org/aha/news-center/awards/quest-for-quality/overview.html	N/A
The Magnet Award	American Nurses Credentialing Center	1994	Recognizes excellence in providing nursing services to patients, an environment that supports professional nursing practice, and growth and development of nursing staff. http://www.nursecredentialing.org/Magnet.aspx	N/A
Patient-Centered Designation Program	Planetree	1992	Recognizes hospitals that have successfully implemented a comprehensive approach to patient-centered care. http://www.planetree.org/Services/designation.html	N/A
Cheers Award	The Institute for Safe Medication Practices	1998	Recognizes certain health care-related businesses and professionals that have set a standard of excellence in the prevention of medication errors. http://www.ismp.org/cheers/default.asp	N/A
National Quality Healthcare Award	National Quality Forum	1993	Recognizes proactive and exemplary responses to quality improvement and accountability by: using performance measurement to drive quality improvement and manage care for patients with chronic conditions; fostering transparency and accountability to patients and the local community; and achieving safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable care for individual patients and populations. http://www.qualityforum.org/awards/08-quality-award.asp	N/A
Franklin Award of Distinction	Joint Commission	2002	Honors case management systems that demonstrate excellence in building collaboration among hospital professional and technical staff to focus on case management and performance measurement results having a positive effect on patient care. http://www.jointcommission.org/CertificationPrograms/Disease-SpecificCare/FranklinAward/	N/A

Best Acute Care Hospitals	Total Benchmark Solution, LLC	N/A	Acute care hospitals are assessed quarterly according to 24 of the 30 CMS Quality Measures. Hospitals ranked in the top 50 percent nationally make the list. Website users input their zip code and type of care; site displays the hospitals meeting criteria. List is updated quarterly based on CMS data. http://www.totalbenchmarksolution.com/index.php?id=72	N/A
Perfect Score Hospitals	Total Benchmark Solution, LLC	N/A	Designates hospitals and other health care organizations with perfect scores (100% compliance) on all measures within area of: Heart Attack Care, Heart Failure Care, Pneumonia Care, Surgical Care, and Children's Asthma Care. Based on TBS' analysis of CMS October 2006 to September 2007 Hospital Compare Data for all healthcare organizations across the U.S. http://www.totalbenchmarksolution.com/index.php?id=89	N/A
Blue Distinction Centers [®]	Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association	2006	Designates medical facilities that have demonstrated expertise in delivering quality healthcare in the areas of bariatric surgery, cardiac care, complex and rare cancers, and transplants. In collaboration with leading medical organizations and expert physicians in each specialty, BCBS reviews nationally established measures in the areas of patient results, treatment expertise, procedure volume, structure and process. Centers must reapply for designation status every 18 to 36 months. Approximately 800 centers across 45 states have received this distinction. BCBSA plans to extend the distinction to spine surgery, knee and hip replacement, and additional cancers in coming months. http://www.bcbs.com/innovations/bluedistinction/	N/A
Hospital Value Index	Data Advantage LLC	2008	Analyzes more than 1,500 hospitals in the US's 100 largest cities, giving hospitals an aggregate measure of "value." The score is weighted as follows: 45% for Quality, including core processes and patient safety; 45% for Affordability and Efficiency, based on prices it charges; and 10% for Patient Satisfaction, based on two global HCAHPS questions. All data used are publicly available, and derived from four major quality industry initiatives (CMS Core Measure initiative, AHRQ Patient Safety Indicators, The Leapfrog Hospital Survey, and accreditation by The Joint Commission). http://www.hospitalvalueindex.com/	N/A

Note: Awards may not necessarily be hospital-specific. *Number of recipients each year is small, so consistency is not a meaningful indicator.