

CMS Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings

Methodology

CMS publishes hospital quality star ratings on [Hospital Compare](#) to help patients choose a hospital based on quality performance. The agency plans to release new overall hospital quality star ratings twice per year, in July and December.

CMS uses metrics from the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program and Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting (OQR) Program to determine star ratings. Following criticism that claimed the ratings favored smaller, private, non-teaching hospitals, among other concerns, CMS changed its methodology in Dec. 2017. Notably, the agency's removal of "winsorization," which limits extreme values from arising in statistical analysis, resulted in an increase of 5- and 1-star hospitals.

CMS calculates overall star ratings using a composite of 57 distinct quality metrics. The scores are based on hospital performance in seven different categories, as shown in the table below. The agency then calculates an overall hospital score by weighting and aggregating the individual category scores. Finally, star ratings are assigned based on overall ranking. For instance, in the Dec. 2017 ratings, 9.1% of eligible hospitals received 5 stars, 31% received 4 stars, 32% received 3 stars, 20% received 2 stars, and 7% received 1 star. For more details on the CMS Hospital Compare Star Rating methodology, review the [CMS QualityNet website](#).

Categories of Metrics Used to Calculate the CMS Hospital Quality Star Ratings

Category	Category Weight	Examples of Included Metrics	Number of Metrics
Mortality	22%	30-day mortality rate for patients suffering from a heart attack or receiving coronary artery bypass graft surgery	7
Readmission	22%	30-day readmissions rate for patients suffering from a heart attack or receiving coronary artery bypass graft surgery	8
Safety of Care	22%	Catheter-associated urinary tract infection rate Overall <i>Clostridium difficile</i> infection rate	9
Patient Experience	22%	Patient's perception of information communicated by doctors and nurses.	11
Effectiveness of Care	4%	Patient and caregiver were offered influenza immunization	10
Timeliness of Care	4%	Time taken for various events in the emergency department, such as time from arrival to discharge.	7
Efficient Use of Imaging	4%	Assess the clinical necessity of imaging	5

Sources: "[How the Hospital Compare overall rating is calculated](#)" cms.gov. Web. 20 Feb 2018. Speech; Quality Net, "Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings Overview." Quality Net. <https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPages%2FQnetTier2&cid=1228775183434>; Physician Executive Council interviews and analysis.