

Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades

Leapfrog releases its hospital safety grades twice annually in the spring and fall

Overview

Leapfrog assigns ~2,600 general acute-care hospitals a letter grade from A through F in the spring, then updates these ratings in the fall when hospitals report newer data.

Fall 2018 Distribution

Grade	Safety Grade Criteria Cut-Point	Count of Hospitals	Percentage of Hospitals
A	≥ 3.151	855	32%
B	≥ 2.965	638	24%
C	≥ 2.502	976	37%
D	≥ 2.039	164	6%
F	< 2.039	17	<1%

Eligibility

Leapfrog considers all acute-care hospitals with sufficient publicly available data. They are unable to provide grades for:

- Critical access hospitals;
- Long-term care and rehabilitation facilities;
- Mental health facilities;
- Federal hospitals (i.e., VA hospitals);
- Specialty hospitals and free-standing pediatric hospitals; and
- Hospitals that are missing data for more than six process/structural measures or more than five outcome measures.

Data Collection

Leapfrog uses 28 national performance measures to produce their composite safety grade. The data is collected from Leapfrog's Hospital Survey as well as from CMS. When a hospital doesn't have available data on a particular measure, Leapfrog uses secondary data from the **American Hospital Association's** Annual Survey or Health Care IT (HIT) supplement. For Maryland hospitals, they use data from the **Maryland Hospital Commission**.

Leapfrog's Annual Hospital Survey

Leapfrog's survey is free for hospitals to complete and is open from April 1 to December 31. It includes nine sections encompassing medication safety, safety practice adherence, response to serious errors, and staffing in the ICU/surgical units.

In January of each year, Leapfrog publishes a timeline of when they will pull the applicable data from their survey and from CMS. They also provide dates for a 3-week courtesy review, during which time hospitals can review the data that's been collected for accuracy and raise any concerns with Leapfrog's help desk.

Scoring Methodology

Safety grades measures are divided into two groups: process/structural measures and outcomes measures—each of which account for 50% of the total score.



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Measures

Leapfrog assesses hospitals' data on the 28 measures and calculates a z-score for each measure based on the hospital's data point and the measure's mean and standard deviation for all hospitals. Each measure's z-score is then multiplied by the weight assigned to that measure and totaled (plus 3.0) to find each hospital's overall Safety Grade Score. This numerical score is then translated to a letter grade using the cut-offs outlined on the previous page.

Measure Group	Measures Included	Measure Weight	Overall Weight
Process and Structure (13)	Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE)*	5.8%	50%
	Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA)**	5.7%	
	ICU Physician Staffing (IPS)	7.2%	
	Safe Practice 1: Leadership Structures and Systems	2.9%	
	Safe Practice 2: Culture Measurement, Feedback & Intervention	3.1%	
	Safe Practice 4: Identification and Mitigation of Risks and Hazards	3.0%	
	Safe Practice 9: Nursing Workforce	4.0%	
	Safe Practice 19: Hand Hygiene	4.0%	
	H-COMP-1: Nurse	2.9%	
	H-COMP-2: Doctor Communication	2.8%	
	H-COMP-3: Staff Responsiveness	2.9%	
	H-COMP-5: Communication about Medicines	2.9%	
	H-COMP-6: Discharge Information	2.9%	
Outcomes (15)	Foreign Object Retained	4.3%	50%
	Air Embolism	2.5%	
	Falls and Trauma	4.7%	
	CLABSI (Central Line-associated Bloodstream Infection)	4.5%	
	CAUTI (Catheter-Associated UTI)	4.5%	
	SSI: Colon	3.5%	
	MRSA	4.5%	
	C. Diff	4.0%	
	PSI 3: Pressure Ulcer Rate	4.1%	
	PSI 4: Death Rate among Surgical Inpatients with Serious Treatable Conditions	2.0%	
	PSI 6: Iatrogenic Pneumothorax Rate	2.1%	
	PSI 11: Postoperative Respiratory Failure Rate	2.3%	
	PSI 12: Perioperative PE/DVT Rate	2.2%	
	PSI 14: Postoperative Wound Dehiscence Rate	2.2%	
	PSI 15: Unrecognized Abdominopelvic Accidental Puncture/Laceration Rate	2.8%	

*Scoring methodology changed for fall 2018; **Measure added fall 2018