US News and World Report Best Hospital Rankings 2016

Methodology

The US News and World Report (USNWR) publishes its [Best Hospital Rankings](#) to identify hospitals that are best equipped to treat patients who need specialty care. Rankings are released annually in August. USNWR computes a score in each of 16 specialties using the metric categories and table below. These scores are used to rank hospitals within each of the 16 specialties, and then these rankings are averaged to form an overall hospital ranking. USNWR features the 20 hospitals with the highest overall rank on its "Honor Roll" list.

For the 2016 rankings, all of the data comes from the American Hospital Association Annual Survey, the Medicare Provider and Analysis Review, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and USNWR's own physician survey.[1] For more specifics about the USNWR Best Hospital methodology, click [here](#).

Categories of Metrics Used to Calculate the USNWR Best Hospital Rankings

Twelve of the 16 specialty rankings are calculated using quality metrics organized into the categories listed in the table below. [2] Each metric category is weighted to compute the specialty scores, as listed in the table below. The remaining four specialty scores and ranks are entirely based on reputation.[3]

Category	Category Weight	Examples of Included Metrics	Number of Metrics
Outcome	37.5%	30-day risk-adjusted mortality for each specialty[4]	12
Structure	30%	Designated as a Level 1 or 2 Trauma center Has advanced imaging and other technologies[5]	9
Process	27.5%	USNWR uses reputation as a proxy for gauging a hospital's process of care.[6] For the Cardiology and Heart Surgery specialty, 3.0% of this score is determined by whether a hospital reports data to the ACC[7] or STS[8]	16
Patient Safety	5%	Postoperative hemorrhage or hematoma Accidental puncture or laceration	6

1) USNWR's physician survey asks roughly 100 thousand board-certified physicians to name the top 5 hospitals in their specialty.
2) The 12 specialties that use quantitative data are Cancer; Cardiology & Heart Surgery; Diabetes and Endocrinology; Ear, Nose & Throat; Gastroenterology & Gastrointestinal Surgery; Geriatrics; Gynecology; Nephrology; Neurology & Neurosurgery; Orthopedics; Pulmonology; and Urology.
3) The four reputation only specialties are Ophthalmology, Psychiatry, Rehabilitation, and Rheumatology. For these specialties, quantitative quality metrics are considered inapplicable because care within these specialties is typically an outpatient service and USNWR focuses on inpatient quality.
4) The morality risk-adjustment is based on Truven's proprietary algorithm and uses MEDPAR data from 2012-2014.
5) USNWR lists a variety of advanced technologies on a per specialty basis. Hospitals receive points for either having these pieces of technology in house or through an agreement.
6) USNWR states that it is difficult to obtain national measurements of process. They contend that reputation among physicians is an endorsement of the process choices made at that hospital and therefore a reasonable proxy for process measures. Reputation is assessed using USNWR's physician survey which asks roughly 100 thousand board-certified physicians to name the top 5 hospitals in their specialty.
7) The ACC is the American College of Cardiology.
8) The STS is the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

Olmsted, Murrey G., et al." U.S. News & World Report 2016-17 Best Hospitals: Specialty Rankings." U.S. News & World Report, (2016). Web.; Physician Executive Council interviews and analysis.