

Maine Hospitals Best in the Nation For Quality

Updated

2012

Maine Hospital Quality - Best in the Country Overall



Maine hospitals' rank compared to the other states' average scores on the 35 quality measures posted on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services "Hospital Compare" Web site: www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov

Maine Hospitals: First in the US

Maine continues to provide higher quality hospital care on average than any other state in the country, according to data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Compare Web site (www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov). Hospital Compare provides a large, stable data set with individual hospital performance as well as state and national averages calculated by CMS. All publicly reported and comparable measures with sufficient quantifiable data were included in the calculation. The hospital-reported data is subject to CMS validation.

Hospitals have long delivered outstanding care to the people of Maine. In 2003, a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association, using similar data, ranked the quality of care provided by Maine's hospitals as 3rd best in the country since 1998. In 2011, Maine hospitals ranked best in the country, according to a report from the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, which used many of the same measures from Hospital Compare, along with claims and other data not posted by CMS.

In both 2012 and 2013, Medicare announced that 79 percent of Maine hospitals would receive a bonus for

providing high quality care, a higher percentage of hospitals than any other state. On average, Maine hospitals saw their Medicare payments rise by 0.23 percent in 2012 and 0.24 percent in 2013.

In May 2013, the Leapfrog Group released its Hospital Safety Scores. Eighty percent of Maine's hospitals earned A's on the report, making Maine the state with the highest average score.

Maine hospitals also led the nation in measuring and reporting the quality of health care services. As early evidence of our commitment to transparency and accountability, MHA was among the first organizations in the country to routinely and voluntarily publicly release hospital-specific quality data, including patient survey results.

Although they are already leaders in providing high-quality health care, Maine's hospitals still strive to improve. As the science of medicine evolves, so does the science of health care quality. The field is advancing rapidly and hospitals routinely re-evaluate how they structure, measure and monitor quality management and use that information to improve care.



The source of the data

MHA used the most recent state averaged data available from CMS Hospital Compare, as described below:

- **Process Quality:** the average of Maine hospitals' performance on 22 quality measures across five clinical areas—heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care and immunizations—for the 12-month period ending September 30, 2012. A higher score is better.
- **Patient Experience:** the average of Maine hospitals' patient experience of care survey (HCAHPS) scores for all 10 categories measured for the 12-month period ending September 30, 2012.
- **Mortality:** the average of Maine hospitals' rates for three clinical areas—heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia—for the 3-year period ending June 30, 2012.

The Best and Getting Better