



Hospital Watch USA: 5 Liberty Bells Grade

Quality and Safety

Introduction

We believe that all hospitals must be top hospitals in providing safe, quality medical care. Our aspirational motivated 5 Liberty Bells grading of hospitals, seeks to have all hospitals achieve the goal of providing the best and safest care. This section gives the user information on how the hospital is performing toward the aspirational goal of eliminating preventable medical errors and attaining the aspirational goal associated with mortality and readmissions of patients cared for at the hospital. The overall grade for the hospital reflects their current performance and takes into account other factors such as the specific type of medical error and their ability to attain the goal of top hospital in preventable complications and related quality outcomes. Each patient safety result is based on the public reporting of the hospital's results to national organizations as required by regulations.

(Learn more about the regulation and the process of reporting)

The 5 Liberty Bells grade for quality medical care is motivated by the belief that for most medical conditions the knowledge and tools to achieve universally excellent results exists and available to all hospitals. Additionally, since many medical events occur without warning, regardless where we may be, all hospitals need to provide excellent care. The Five Liberty Bells grade for quality medical care measures the hospital's performance as compared to the outcomes achieved by the best hospital in each category. We rate the quality of medical care provided by the hospital. The information includes many aspects of the process of care, the outcome of care and complications that are the result of hospitalization.

We also document whether specialty programs meet and follow guidelines established by specialty societies or other appropriate bodies (e.g., whether a cancer treatment center has been approved by the American College of Surgeons, the Association of Community Cancer Centers, or the National Cancer Institute).

We include information and tools to make the user an effective part of the treatment team to achieve excellent outcomes.

How well is the hospital doing in providing medical services? (Content will be based on reports by hospital, rating organizations and regulatory groups.) Limitation of information will be outlined)

Medical errors, adverse events & patient safety

Outcomes for medical conditions

Outcomes for surgical conditions

Information about physicians in the hospital

Clinical quality performance measures

Information about patient safety and hospital-acquired conditions, like infections

How each hospital's rates of readmission and 30-day mortality (death) rates for certain conditions compare with the national rate.

Case volume ratings: The volume of certain procedures performed at the facility

How many people with Medicare have had certain procedures or have been treated for certain conditions at each hospital.

Service performance measures: How often each hospital gives recommended treatments for certain common conditions like Health, lung and neurologic conditions

Additionally we explore whether the hospital's specialty programs meet guidelines established by specialty societies or other appropriate bodies (e.g., whether a cancer treatment center has been approved by the American College of Surgeons, the Association of Community Cancer Centers, or the National Cancer Institute).

Learn how safe your hospital is?

What is the general and patient safety record of the hospital? (including hospital acquired medical conditions, general mortality, overall readmissions rates.) When complete, for each hospital the user will be able to

Search our database for outcomes including general mortality, infections, readmissions

Receive information about the hospital's performance based on the aspirational driven 5 Liberty Bells Rating including

How does the hospital rate along the aspirational goals for patient safety and performance (By 5 levels of outcomes)

Number of "unnecessary deaths" and readmissions at this hospital

Compare to list of local and national hospitals

Link to information and additional resources

Take action to achieve the best care

The overall grade for the hospital's patient safety will be one of the following:

The 5 Liberty Bells Grading ([Click here to learn more about the 5 Liberty Bells system algorithm and display and link to information about the scale](#))

5 Liberty Bells: The hospital reached the aspirational goal for all areas reported

4 Liberty Bells: The hospital reached aspirational goal in CLBSI and 30 Day mortality and 80% of other items

3 Liberty Bells: The hospital reached aspirational goal in CLBSI and 30 Day mortality and 50% of other items

2 Liberty Bells: The hospital reached aspirational goal in CLBSI and 30 Day mortality and 25% of other items

1 Liberty Bells: The hospital reached aspirational goal in CLBSI and 30 Day mortality and 0% of other items

Grade for each condition: Aspiration Grade color guide

Blue: The hospital achieved the aspirational goal for this condition

Light Blue: The hospital is within 20% of aspirational goal for prevention of medical care acquired infections

Yellow: The hospital is within 40% of aspirational goal for prevention of medical care acquired infections

Green: The hospital is within 60% of aspirational goal for prevention of medical care acquired infections

Red: The hospital is within 80% of aspirational goal for prevention of medical care acquired infections

Black: The hospital didn't report about the condition The hospital is within 20%, 40%, 60% or 80% of aspirational goal for medical errors, mortality or readmissions.

Aspirational Goals:

Hospital Acquired Infections and Conditions: Zero occurrences

For Mortality and Readmissions: Average of top ten hospitals + 10%

For process outcomes: 100%

To learn more about the aspirational grading [click here](#) for a link to VA Aspire program for hospital reporting