

Snapshot

Honoring the nation's leading cardiovascular care organizations

The Watson Health 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals study identifies 50 top-performing hospitals based on publicly available data and a balanced look at clinical, operational and financial metrics.

Watson Health 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals leaders demonstrate that quality care and operational efficiency can be achieved simultaneously, thereby delivering greater value to their communities. As the industry has evolved, so has our study — and 22 years later, it serves as a benchmark of what's achievable in healthcare.

This year's study findings were based on all Medicare inpatients receiving the same level of care as is offered at our winning facilities.



7,368 additional lives could be saved



5,066 additional heart patients could be complication free



\$1.6B in inpatient costs could be saved



1/2 day less time in hospital, per patient

Compared to similar hospitals, the 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals had:

- Better survival rates
- Fewer patient complications
- Fewer healthcare associated infections
- Lower 30-day mortality and readmission rates
- Shorter lengths of stay
- Lower inpatient expenses

What is the 100 Top Hospitals program?

The Watson Health 100 Top Hospitals program releases three quantitative studies annually, identifying US hospitals and health systems with the highest achievement on a balanced scorecard.

This balanced scorecard, based on Norton and Kaplan's concept, is calculated based on publicly available data. It incorporates approximately 10 measures (depending on data availability) distributed across five domains:

- Inpatient outcomes
- Extended outcomes
- Operational efficiency
- Financial health
- Patient experience

How are the 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals identified?

The hospitals with the highest rankings on a composite score of the available measures are identified as the highest-achieving hospitals in each study. The 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals study includes only short-term, nonfederal, non-specialty (other than cardiac) acute care US hospitals that treat patients for Acute Myocardial Infarct (AMI or heart attack), Heart Failure, Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG or heart bypass), and Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI or angioplasty). Hospitals with fewer than 30 unique patient records in each patient group (AMI, HF, CABG, and PCI) for the two most current MEDPAR years combined are excluded.

The 8 measures included in the 2021 study are:

1. Risk-adjusted inpatient mortality index
2. Risk-adjusted complications index
3. CABG using IMA
4. 30-day risk-adjusted mortality rate
5. 30-day risk-adjusted readmission rate
6. Severity-adjusted average LOS
7. Wage- and severity-adjusted average cost per case
8. 30-day episode payment

What data is used in the study?

- Medicare Provider Analysis and Review (MEDPAR)
- Medicare Hospital Cost Reports (all-payer)
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Compare data sets

For the 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals 2021 study, we used the most recent two federal fiscal years of MEDPAR data available - FY 2018 and 2019 which includes Medicare Advantage (HMO) encounters, to identify current performance and to identify the winning hospitals.

- To be included in the study, a hospital must have the two most current years of data available, with valid present-on-admission (POA) coding
- Hospitals that filed under one Medicare provider number jointly with other hospitals were analyzed as one organization
- Four years of MEDPAR data (2016 – 2019) were used to develop the study trend database for inpatient mortality, complications, ALOS and cost per case measures
- Five years of trend data were used to track 30-day performance measures

How can hospitals make use of this study?

Watson Health offers custom benchmark reports based on the 100 Top Hospitals program studies, which can support in-depth analyses of your organization's performance. These reports are designed to help your organization understand where you may achieve improved performance across quality, safety, efficiency and patient perception of care.

How can I get more information?

For more information on the 100 Top Hospitals program, visit our website at [100tophospitals.com](https://www.ibm.com/100tophospitals.com).

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