

## ***Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™*** **2013 Methodology**

To help consumers evaluate and compare hospital performance, Healthgrades analyzed clinical outcomes data for nearly every hospital in the country. In order to evaluate overall hospital performance and to identify the best-performing hospitals in clinical excellence across the United States, Healthgrades used a two-step methodology.

1. Evaluated hospital performance for 27 procedures and conditions using *Healthgrades Hospital Report Card™ Mortality and Complication Outcomes Methodology*.
2. Identified the overall best-performing hospitals using this *Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™ Methodology*.

Using a logistic regression based risk-adjusted model to compare performance among hospitals, hospital performance is stratified into one of three performance categories: 1-star (worse than expected), 3-star (as expected), or 5-star (better than expected) for each of 27 procedures and conditions (see *Procedure and Conditions List* below). To have hospital performance evaluated in a specific procedure or condition, a hospital must have a minimum of 30 cases over the three years of study and at least five cases in the most recent year of analysis (2011).

The Healthgrades risk-adjustment methodology considers important differences in patient demographic (e.g., age, gender) and clinical characteristics (e.g., underlying medical conditions) that could increase the patient's risk of mortality or in-hospital complications. Risk adjustment of the data is needed to make accurate and valid comparisons of clinical outcomes at different hospitals. For more information regarding the risk-adjustment methodology, read the complete methodology, *Healthgrades Hospital Report Card™ Mortality and Complication Outcomes Methodology*, at [www.healthgrades.com](http://www.healthgrades.com).

### ***Designating Distinguished Hospitals for Clinical Excellence***

The Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence recognizes the top 5% of hospitals in the country for clinical excellence. During the 2013 study period (2009-2011), 262 hospitals showed superior performance in caring for patients in the Medicare population, as measured by objective clinical outcomes (risk-adjusted mortality and in-hospital complications) across at least 19 of 27 of the most common inpatient conditions and procedures. These hospitals are recognized as Healthgrades 2013 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence recipients.

These 262 award recipient hospitals stand out above the rest for their overall clinical care across a broad spectrum of care. While many hospitals have specific areas of expertise and high-quality outcomes in certain areas, these hospitals exhibit comprehensive high-quality care across clinical specialties.

To be considered for the Healthgrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence, a hospital's performance had to have been evaluated in at least 19 of the 27 Healthgrades procedures and conditions using Medicare inpatient data from the Medicare Provider Analysis and Review (MedPAR) database purchased from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

After creating a list of hospitals that met these eligibility criteria, Healthgrades took the following steps to determine recipients of the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence.

1. Calculated the average performance rating and average z-score for each hospital by averaging all of their MedPAR-based performance ratings and the corresponding z-scores for all outcomes (in-hospital complications; and in-hospital mortality, 30-day mortality, and 180-day mortality outcomes are included).
2. Ranked hospitals in descending order by their average overall performance for all of the conditions and procedures evaluated, with ties broken by average z-score.
3. Selected the top 262 hospitals on the list (which represents the top 5% of all hospitals).
4. Designated these hospitals to receive the 2013 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence.

### ***Procedures and Conditions List***

The following 27 procedures and conditions are used in this methodology.

#### **Mortality-Based Procedures & Conditions**

Bowel Obstruction	Neurosurgery
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	Pancreatitis
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG)	Pneumonia
Coronary Interventional Procedures	Pulmonary Embolism
Diabetic Acidosis and Coma	Resection/Replacement Abdominal Aorta
Gastrointestinal Bleed	Respiratory Failure
Gastrointestinal Surgeries and Procedures	Sepsis
Heart Attack	Stroke
Heart Failure	Valve Repair/Replacement Surgery

#### **In-Hospital Complication-Based Procedures & Conditions**

Back and Neck Surgery (With Spinal Fusion)	Hip Replacement
Back and Neck Surgery (Without Spinal Fusion)	Peripheral Vascular Bypass
Carotid Surgery	Prostatectomy
Gallbladder Surgery	Total Knee Replacement
Hip Fracture Treatment	