

METHODOLOGY

America's Best Hospitals for Specialized Care **2025**

Scope, Data Collection, Evaluation, and Results

statista 

Newsweek



Methodology – America's Best Hospitals for Specialized Care 2025

Summary of the project

- The **America's Best Hospitals for Specialized Care** ranking recognizes the leading hospitals in the U.S. across the following six medical specialties, featuring a select number of top facilities in each field: Top 200 Hospitals for **Cancer** Care, Top 200 Hospitals for **Cardiac** Care, Top 200 Hospitals for **Neurological** Care, Top 200 Hospitals for **Orthopedic** Care, Top 175 Hospitals for **Endocrine** Care, and Top 175 Hospitals for **Pulmonary** Care.
- Hospitals were also recognized for their excellence in notable treatments, medical conditions, and/or surgical procedures.
- The underlying data analysis is based on **four data sources**:
 - **Hospital quality metrics:** Hospital quality metrics with a focus on indicators relevant to the respective medical specialties and accreditations/certifications were considered.
 - **Nationwide online survey:** During the survey period from February to March 2025, tens of thousands of medical experts (doctors, hospitals managers, & healthcare professionals) were invited to an online survey in cooperation with Newsweek. Participants were asked to recommend hospitals based on their expertise in one primary medical field.
 - **Results from patient experience surveys**
 - **Statista PROMs Implementation Survey**
- Hospitals with a 1-star Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rating were not eligible for the ranking.
- Hospitals with a very small number of beds were not considered in the ranking.

New features and changes in the 2025 edition

- The following list provides a brief overview of all **major changes in this year's edition** compared to the 2024 rankings:
 - **Increased quality metrics & PROMs implementation weighting:** This year, the weighting of the hospital quality metrics pillar was increased within the scoring model to reflect the emphasis on hospital quality indicators. In addition, the weighting of the PROMs implementation pillar was increased.
 - **Inclusion of additional hospital quality metrics data sources:** Medicare Fee-for-Service claims, including quality performance benchmark data sourced from Arcadia, were included.
 - **Inclusion of additional accreditations, certifications, and designations:**
 - Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC)
 - American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program®
 - Det Norske Veritas (DNV) certifications
 - Planetree certification
 - National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC) accreditation
 - National Cancer Institute (NCI)-Designated Cancer Centers
 - National Institute on Aging (NIA)-designated Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers
 - **Updated Statista PROMs Implementation Survey:** The survey, eligibility thresholds, and display of participating hospitals have been updated.
 - **Inclusion of previous year's recommendation data:** To account for reputational continuity, recommendation data from last year was factored into the reputation pillar.

Hospital evaluation is based on four pillars, ranging from peer evaluations and quality metrics to patient experience and PROMS implementation

Data sources



Available data on U.S. hospitals was analyzed

Hospital quality metrics – Part 1

1 Hospital quality metrics – Performance measures

- Hospital quality metrics relevant to each specific medical field provided by **CMS** and by **Arcadia** were evaluated⁽¹⁻²⁾. Hospitals with a 1-star rating from CMS were not eligible for the ranking.
- **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** data were available for:
 - Mortality
 - Safety of care
 - Readmissions
 - Timely & effective care
 - Patient satisfaction
 - Health equity
 - Patient-reported outcomes
 - PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospitals (PCH) - Palliative care measures⁽³⁾
- Additional performance benchmark data based on Medicare Fee-for-Service claims sourced from **Arcadia** were available for:
 - Providers' population-level quality performance by CMS Certification Number (CCN)
 - Facilities' episode-level performance by medical field for the following measures:
 - Average LOS (Days) of Institutional Long-Term Stay
 - ER Visits per 1,000 Episodes
 - Mortality Rate
 - Complications by Episode
 - Unplanned Readmissions per 1,000 Episodes

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY

5 (1) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) data (<https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare>): reporting period: 2023-2024
(2) Medicare Fee-for-Service claims data provided by Arcadia (<https://arcadia.io/>) reporting period: 2023
(3) Cancer-specific measures

Available data on U.S. hospitals was analyzed

Hospital quality metrics – Part 2

1 Hospital quality metrics – Structural and Organizational Data

- The **AHA Annual Survey Database** has been included in the scoring model. The database contains data provided by more than 6,200 hospitals and 400 health care systems and features over 1,300 hospital data points⁽¹⁾. Structural and organizational data of hospital facilities was used to be included in the hospital quality metrics score.
- The following indicator groups of the **AHA Annual Survey Database 2022** were used as part of the quality metrics score⁽²⁻³⁾:
 - **General Indicators** (e.g., Hospital research & screening, Trauma center, Workforce strategic planning)
 - **Medical field specific indicators** (e.g., Computer assisted surgery (CAOS) and orthopedic services for orthopedic care)
 - **Health Equity** (e.g., Health equity goals, DEI disaggregated data)

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY

Available data on U.S. hospitals was analyzed

Hospital quality metrics – Part 3

1 Hospital quality metrics – Accreditations & certifications

- Several accreditations/certifications/center designations were included in the scoring analysis (where available).
- The following **accreditations/certifications/designations**⁽¹⁾ reflect a range of structural and/or quality requirements which are now relevant for the specialized rankings:
 - Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC)
 - American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
 - Det Norske Veritas (DNV)
 - Planetree
 - The Joint Commission (TJC)
 - Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT)
 - National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC)
 - National Cancer Institute (NCI)
 - National Institute on Aging (NIA)⁽²⁾
- In addition to general hospital certifications, available **accreditations/certifications relevant to specific medical fields** (e.g., Advanced Shoulder Surgery Certification for orthopedic hospitals, Advanced Comprehensive Heart Attack Center Certification for cardiac hospitals) were used.

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY

7 (1) Additional information about the accreditations/certifications is available here: [ACHC](#), [ANCC](#), [DNV](#), [FACT](#), [NAEC](#), [NCI](#), [NIA](#), [Planetree](#), [TJC](#).
(2) FACT Accreditation and NCI designation were relevant only for the Cancer Care ranking, NAEC Accreditation and NIA designations were relevant only for the Neurological Care ranking.

Tens of thousands medical experts were invited to the survey

2 Hospital recommendations from peers

From February to March 2025, Statista invited tens of thousands of medical professionals (mostly doctors, but also hospital managers and other healthcare professionals) to an online survey. The survey was also promoted on newsweek.com.



Nationwide online survey among medical professionals with knowledge about the respective medical fields.



Participants were asked to **recommend** hospitals in their own field of expertise and **to rate them on a scale of 1-10** in different quality dimensions. Recommendations for own employer/hospital were not allowed.



Analysis of **nationwide recommendations** for each of the six medical fields⁽¹⁾. This year, the recommendations from the past two years were taken into account⁽²⁾. Recommendations from the 2024 survey period were given less weight compared to those from 2025.

Publicly available patient experience data on U.S. hospitals was analyzed

Patient experience data

3 Patient experience

- Publicly available data from hospital patient surveys by the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) were used to analyze patient experience⁽¹⁾.
- Survey topics associated with patient care:
 - Cleanliness of the hospital
 - Communication of the nurses/doctors
 - Care transition
 - Communication about medicines
 - Discharge information
 - Quietness
 - Staff responsiveness

SCORE FOR PATIENT EXPERIENCE

The Statista PROMs Implementation Survey collects data directly from hospitals

PROMs Implementation Survey

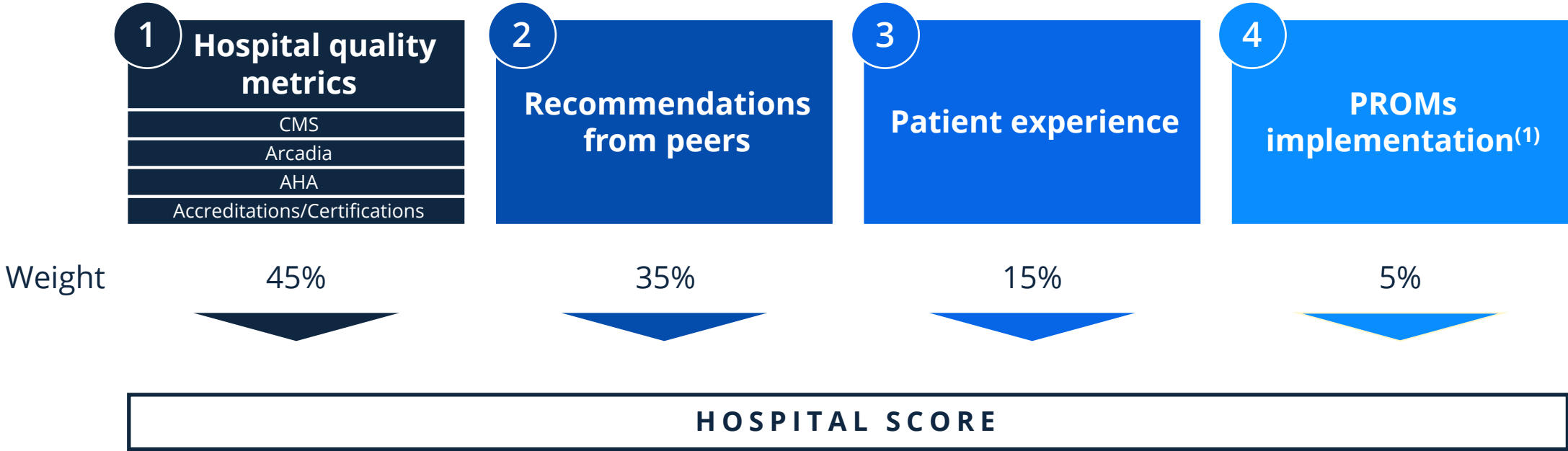
4 Statista PROMs Implementation Survey

- ➔ **Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs)** are defined as standardized, validated questionnaires completed by patients to measure their perception of their functional well-being and quality of life.
- ➔ **Survey cycle:** In fall/winter of each year, Newsweek and Statista conduct the **PROMs Implementation Survey**⁽¹⁾ to determine the status quo of PROMs implementation, auditing and reporting of the data, and whether the PROMs data is used to optimize care process and support therapeutic decisions in real-time.
- ➔ Statista has partnered with the **International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement** (ICHOM, www.ichom.org) as a knowledge partner. ICHOM is the world's leading non-profit organization dedicated to the development of standardized measurement of patient-important outcomes (including PROMs). ICHOM promotes the development of the PROMs Implementation Survey, as well as the use of the data from PROMs (and other patient-important outcomes), towards the advancement of value-based healthcare.
- ➔ A **grading system** for the different questions was built to determine a **PROMs implementation score** for each participating hospital. Only hospitals that achieved a **minimum of 50%** (of the maximum 100% score) were eligible to be graded and received a maximum of up to 5% towards the total score.
- ➔ Future survey cycles will be announced on r.statista.com, newsweek.com, and via e-mail to registered participants. Registrations can be submitted to: hospitals@statista.com or [here](#).

SCORE FOR PROMS IMPLEMENTATION

A score was calculated for each hospital

Scoring model



The total hospital score is based on the four pillars and their respective weights listed above.

The top hospitals in each medical field were awarded

Final ranking by medical field



Hospitals for Cardiac Care

| Rank | Hospital | City | State | Notable Treatment | PROMS Survey |
|------|---|-----------|---------------|---|--------------|
| 1 | Mayo Clinic - Rochester | Rochester | Minnesota | Chronic ischemic heart disease, Coronary artery disease, Heart bypass surgery (CABG), Heart valve surgery, Heart transplant, Coronary Angioplasty & Stent Placement | |
| 2 | Cleveland Clinic / Sydell and Arnold Miller Family Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute | Cleveland | Ohio | Chronic ischemic heart disease, Coronary artery disease, Heart bypass surgery (CABG), Heart valve surgery, Heart transplant, Coronary Angioplasty & Stent Placement | |
| 3 | Massachusetts General Hospital / Corrigan Minehan Heart Center | Boston | Massachusetts | Chronic ischemic heart disease, Coronary artery disease, Heart bypass surgery (CABG), Heart valve surgery, Heart transplant, Coronary Angioplasty & Stent Placement | |
| 4 | NYU Langone Hospitals - Tisch Hospital | New York | New York | Coronary artery disease, Heart bypass surgery (CABG), Heart valve surgery, Heart transplant, Coronary Angioplasty & Stent Placement | |
| 5 | Stanford Health Care - Stanford Hospital | Stanford | California | Coronary artery disease, Heart bypass surgery (CABG), Heart valve surgery, Heart transplant, Coronary Angioplasty & Stent Placement | |

[...]

LEADING HOSPITALS WERE AWARDED IN EACH SPECIALTY


Statista R, Newsweek, and ICHOM comprise the strong partner network behind the America's Best Hospitals for Specialized Care

Partner Network



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Statista R is a world leader in the creation of company, brand, and product rankings and top lists, based on comprehensive market research and data analysis: Statista R recognizes the best. With a team of over 100 expert analysts and in cooperation with more than 40 high profile media brands across all continents, Statista R creates transparency for consumers and business decision makers and helps companies build trust and recognition across a plethora of industries and product categories. Visit [r.statista.com](https://www.statista.com).

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About Newsweek

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About ICHOM

The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM, www.ichom.org) is the leading non-profit dedicated to transforming healthcare by focusing on what truly matters to patients. They accomplish this by empowering patient and clinical leaders to standardize important clinical, quality of life, function and experience results for health care, and enabling transparent large-scale use to achieve patient-centric health system transformation. ICHOM's standardized 'sets' of patient-centred outcomes measures help all actors in healthcare design, deliver and evaluate care based on outcomes that matter to patients. To date, ICHOM has developed 45 outcome measure sets for conditions. The sets are available in IT-ready interoperable formats and have been implemented in 500+ care settings in 42+ countries.



Legal disclaimer for the ranking America's Best Hospitals for Specialized Care

Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of hospitals that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. A mention in the ranking is a positive recognition based on peer recommendations and publicly available data sources at the time. The ranking is the result of an elaborate process which, due to the interval of data collection and analysis, is a reflection of the last calendar year. Furthermore, events preceding or following the period 04/23/2024–04/22/2025 and/or pertaining to individual persons affiliated/associated to the facilities were not included in the metrics. As such, the results of this ranking should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations.

The information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about hospitals or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a facility. The quality of hospitals that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.

Appendix

Specific 2022 AHA Annual Survey indicators used for Cancer Care

1. Total hospital beds (calculated)*
2. Health research – hospital
3. Health screenings – hospital
4. Breast cancer screening/mammograms – hospital
5. Chemotherapy – hospital
6. Hospice program – hospital
7. Oncology services – hospital
8. Pain management program – hospital
9. Palliative care program – hospital
10. Inpatient palliative care unit – hospital
11. Full-field digital mammography (FFDM) – hospital
12. Image-guided radiation therapy - hospital
13. Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) - hospital
14. Shaped beam radiation system – hospital
15. Stereotactic radiosurgery – hospital
16. Bone marrow transplant - hospital
17. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - conduct needs assessment
18. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - talent development plan
19. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - recruitment & retention planning
20. Accountable for meeting health equity goals – CEO
21. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - designated senior executive
22. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - committee or task force
23. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - division/department leaders
24. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - patient outcomes
25. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions – training
26. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - professional development
27. Health equity strategic planning - equitable and inclusive organizational policies
28. Health equity strategic planning - systematic and shared accountability for health equity
29. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system leadership
30. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system governance

Appendix

Specific 2022 AHA Annual Survey indicators used for Cardiac Care

1. Total hospital beds (calculated)*
2. Certified trauma center - hospital
3. Level of trauma center
4. Hospital owns trauma certification
5. Health research - hospital
6. Health screenings - hospital
7. Computed tomography (CT) scanner - hospital
8. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) - hospital
9. Multi-slice spiral computed tomography < 64 slice - hospital
10. Multi-slice spiral computed tomography + 64 slice - hospital
11. Positron emission tomography (PET) - hospital
12. Positron emission tomography/CT (PET/CT) - hospital
13. Ultrasound - hospital
14. Basic interventional radiology - hospital
15. Cardiac intensive care - hospital
16. Pediatric diagnostic catheterization - hospital
17. Adult interventional cardiac catheterization - hospital
18. Adult cardiac surgery - hospital
19. Adult cardiac electrophysiology - hospital
20. Cardiac rehabilitation - hospital
21. Heart transplant - hospital
22. Intensivist FTE cardiac intensive care
23. Closed unit - cardiac intensive care
24. Electron beam computed tomography (EBCT) - hospital
25. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - CEO
26. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - designated senior executive
27. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - committee or task force
28. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - division/department leaders
29. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - patient outcomes
30. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - training
31. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - professional development
32. Health equity strategic planning - equitable and inclusive organizational policies
33. Health equity strategic planning - systematic and shared accountability for health equity
34. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system leadership
35. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system governance
36. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - conduct needs assessment
37. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - talent development plan
38. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - recruitment & retention planning

Appendix

Specific 2022 AHA Annual Survey indicators used for Endocrine Care

1. Total hospital beds (calculated)*
2. Basic interventional radiology - hospital
3. Certified trauma center - hospital
4. Level of trauma center
5. Hospital owns trauma certification
6. Health research - hospital
7. Health screenings - hospital
8. Closed unit - medical surgical intensive care
9. Closed unit - other intensive care
10. Computed tomography (CT) scanner - hospital
11. Diagnostic radioisotope facility - hospital
12. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) - hospital
13. Primary care department - hospital
14. Other telehealth - hospital
15. Positron emission tomography (PET) - hospital
16. Positron emission tomography/CT (PET/CT) - hospital
17. Telehealth remote patient monitoring: ongoing chronic care management - hospital
18. Telehealth consultation and office visits - hospital
19. Telehealth eICU - hospital
20. Telehealth remote patient monitoring: post-discharge - hospital
21. Ultrasound - hospital
22. Urgent care center - hospital
23. Wound management services - hospital
24. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - CEO
25. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - designated senior executive
26. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - committee or task force
27. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - division/department leaders
28. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - patient outcomes
29. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - training
30. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - professional development
31. Health equity strategic planning - equitable and inclusive organizational policies
32. Health equity strategic planning - systematic and shared accountability for health equity
33. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system leadership
34. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system governance
35. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - conduct needs assessment
36. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - talent development plan
37. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - recruitment & retention planning

Appendix

Specific 2022 AHA Annual Survey indicators used for Neurological Care

1. Total hospital beds (calculated)*
2. Certified trauma center - hospital
3. Level of trauma center
4. Hospital owns trauma certification
5. Health research – hospital
6. Health screenings – hospital
7. Neurological services – hospital
8. Pain management program – hospital
9. Telehealth stroke care – hospital
10. Single photon emission computerized tomography (SPECT) – hospital
11. Intraoperative magnetic resonance imaging – hospital
12. Magnetoencephalography (MEG) – hospital
13. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) – hospital
14. Computed Tomography (CT) scanner – hospital
15. Positron emission tomography (PET) - hospital
16. Positron emission tomography/CT (PET/CT) - hospital
17. Ultrasound – hospital
18. Accountable for meeting health equity goals – CEO
19. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - designated senior executive
20. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - committee or task force
21. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - division/department leaders
22. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - patient outcomes
23. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions – training
24. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - professional development
25. Health equity strategic planning - equitable and inclusive organizational policies
26. Health equity strategic planning - systematic and shared accountability for health equity
27. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system leadership
28. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system governance
29. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - conduct needs assessment
30. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - talent development plan
31. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - recruitment & retention planning

Appendix

Specific 2022 AHA Annual Survey indicators used for Orthopedic Care

1. Total hospital beds (calculated)*
2. Certified trauma center - hospital
3. Level of trauma center
4. Hospital owns trauma certification
5. Health research – hospital
6. Health screenings - hospital
7. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) – hospital
8. Computed Tomography (CT) scanner – hospital
9. Ultrasound – hospital
10. Arthritis treatment center – hospital
11. Computer assisted orthopedic surgery (CAOS) – hospital
12. Orthopedic services – hospital
13. Physical rehabilitation outpatient services – hospital
14. Prosthetic and orthotic services – hospital
15. Sports medicine – hospital
16. Accountable for meeting health equity goals – CEO
17. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - designated senior executive
18. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - committee or task force
19. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - division/department leaders
20. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - patient outcomes
21. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions – training
22. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - professional development
23. Health equity strategic planning - equitable and inclusive organizational policies
24. Health equity strategic planning - systematic and shared accountability for health equity
25. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system leadership
26. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system governance
27. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - conduct needs assessment
28. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - talent development plan
29. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - recruitment & retention planning

Appendix

Specific 2022 AHA Annual Survey indicators used for Pulmonary Care

1. Total hospital beds (calculated)*
2. Certified trauma center - hospital
3. Level of trauma center
4. Hospital owns trauma certification
5. Health research - hospital
6. Health screenings - hospital
7. Patient education center - hospital
8. Closed unit - medical surgical intensive care
9. Closed unit - other intensive care
10. Computed tomography (CT) scanner - hospital
11. Diagnostic radioisotope facility - hospital
12. Intensivist FTE Medical-surgical intensive care
13. Imaging centers
14. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) - hospital
15. Multi-slice spiral computed tomography < 64 slice - hospital
16. Multi-slice spiral computed tomography + 64 slice - hospital
17. Other intensive care - hospital
18. Positron emission tomography (PET) - hospital
19. Positron emission tomography/CT (PET/CT) - hospital
20. Single photon emission computerized tomography (SPECT) - hospital
21. Telehealth remote patient monitoring: ongoing chronic care management - hospital
22. Ultrasound - hospital
23. Urgent care center - hospital
24. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - CEO
25. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - designated senior executive
26. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - committee or task force
27. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - division/department leaders
28. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - patient outcomes
29. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - training
30. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - professional development
31. Health equity strategic planning - equitable and inclusive organizational policies
32. Health equity strategic planning - systematic and shared accountability for health equity
33. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system leadership
34. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system governance
35. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - conduct needs assessment
36. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - talent development plan
37. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - recruitment & retention planning