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World's Best Smart Hospitals 2026 – Methodology

Table of contents

1 Introduction

Smart hospitals are transforming the healthcare landscape by leveraging cutting-edge technologies to rethink and optimize how care is delivered. These hospitals go beyond traditional models of care by integrating advanced digital solutions, such as artificial intelligence, telemedicine, robotics, and data analytics, into clinical workflows and hospital operations (TechTarget, 2025). The adoption of such technologies not only improves treatment outcomes and operational efficiency within hospitals but also contributes to broader healthcare goals, including prevention, population health management, and enhanced quality of life (Abernethy et al., 2022).

As healthcare systems worldwide continue to face challenges related to aging populations, workforce shortages, and rising costs, the implementation of smart technologies has become increasingly critical. Smart hospitals aim to meet these challenges with innovative, patient-centered approaches that promote safety, efficiency, and long-term sustainability (Jovy-Klein et al., 2024).

To promote transparency and acknowledge hospitals leading the way in digital transformation, Statista and Newsweek have partnered once again to present the ***World's Best Smart Hospitals 2026*** ranking.

This fifth edition recognizes the 350 leading *World's Best Smart Hospitals* worldwide. This year's ranking features hospitals from 30 countries and highlights standout categories in specific areas of digital innovation.

The ranking is primarily based on peer recommendations collected through an **international online survey** of medical professionals, including doctors, healthcare workers, and hospital administrators with knowledge about smart hospitals. Additionally, implementation and usage of digital technologies in the hospital was assessed via the **Statista Smart Hospitals Maturity Survey (SSHMS)**. Furthermore, the **Joint Commission International (JCI) hospital accreditation**, an indicator of quality in healthcare and closely related to the concept of smart hospitals, was included in the scoring model.

2 Notable Changes

The following list provides a brief overview of the major changes in this year's edition, compared to the *World's Best Smart Hospitals 2025* ranking:

- **Increased Statista Smart Hospitals Maturity Survey weighting:** This year the weighting of the SSHMS pillar increased from 15% to 20% within the scoring model to reflect the emphasis on data submitted to Statista on the implementation and usage of smart hospital technologies.
- **Inclusion of previous year's recommendation data:** To account for reputational continuity, recommendation data from the last two years were factored into the reputation pillar (see chapter 3.2.1).
- **Additional standout category:** To align with the topics in the SSHMS, *patient safety technologies* has been introduced as an additional standout category.
- **Ranking display:** Due to an updated methodology, we are now ranking the top hospitals from 1 to 350, as opposed to last year when hospitals ranked 101 to 350 were listed alphabetically.
- **Statista Smart Hospitals Maturity Survey visibility**: To further differentiate the efforts of participating hospitals in the field of innovative technologies, a range of one to three ribbons is displayed, as opposed to last year's two ribbon-system.

3 Ranking Framework and Evaluation Criteria

The following sections provide an overview of the study design, and the underlying methodology used to determine the ranking. First, the eligibility criteria are presented in chapter 3.1. Next, chapter 3.2 describes the general methodology. Chapter 3.3 covers the process of quality assurance through desk research, while chapter 3.4 explains the role of the global board of experts. Finally, chapter 3.5 outlines the scoring model used to create the final list.

3.1 Eligibility

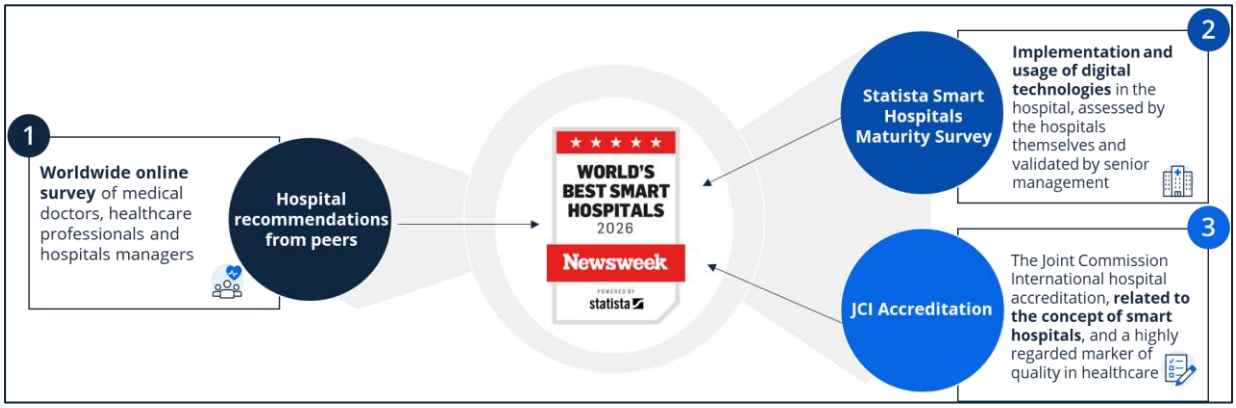
Hospitals that are not accessible to the public and / or are very small were excluded from the ranking, as they are not comparable in the range of services provided.

Furthermore, featured hospitals must demonstrate both technical innovation and leadership within the smart hospital sector. Therefore, desk research was performed for every nominated hospital as a validation of the hospital's achievements (chapter 3.3).

3.2 General Methodology

The *World's Best Smart Hospitals 2026* ranking is based on three pillars:

- **International online survey:** Hospital managers and health care professionals with knowledge about smart hospitals were asked to recommend leading smart hospitals across the globe (see chapter 3.2.1).
- **Statista Smart Hospitals Maturity Survey:** Implementation and usage of digital technologies in the hospital was assessed by hospitals and validated by Chief Digital / Information Officers or Senior Management (see chapter 3.2.2).
- **JCI Accreditation:** The Joint Commission International (JCI) hospital accreditation, which is related to the concept of smart hospitals and a highly regarded marker of quality in healthcare, was included in the scoring model (see chapter 3.2.3).



3.2.1 Hospital Recommendations from Peers

The study design of the *World's Best Smart Hospitals 2026* ranking is based on a global survey of medical professionals.

In cooperation with Newsweek, Statista invited medical experts (medical doctors, hospital managers and other healthcare professionals) with knowledge about smart hospitals to an online survey. Additionally, experts from all over the world were able to participate in the survey on newsweek.com.

The data was collected by Newsweek and Statista during an initial survey period from May to July 2025. Recommendations for own employer / hospital were not allowed. Statista performed plausibility checks on all data to prevent self-nomination.

The recommendations were used to determine the **reputation score**. A score was assigned to each hospital based on the number of weighted recommendations. Recommendations from the 2024 and 2023 survey period were given less weight compared to those from 2025. International recommendations were weighted higher than national ones reinforcing the international focus of this ranking. Additionally, the professional experience of the participant was considered.

The hospital with the highest number of weighted recommendations was allotted a recommendation score of 100%. The next best hospitals received a score proportional to their number of weighted recommendations (e.g., if hospital *A* received the most votes with 100, then hospital *B* with 80 votes was assigned a score of $\frac{80}{100}$ = 80%).

Additionally, participants were given the opportunity to select a standout category for each recommended hospital based on their perception of the hospital's specialized expertise:

- Artificial intelligence
- Electronic functionalities
- Patient safety technologies
- Robotics
- Telemedicine
- Virtualization

The weighted peer recommendations accounted for 77.5% of the overall score, with 42.5% coming from international recommendations and 35% from national recommendations.

3.2.2 Statista Smart Hospitals Maturity Survey

Hospitals were invited to participate in the Statista Smart Hospitals Maturity Survey to assess the implementation and usage of smart technologies in the hospital.

The questionnaire was designed with the guidance of Statista's global board of medical experts. An overview of the current board members can be found in chapter 3.4. The

survey was sent out to hospitals in spring / summer 2025, and participation was also possible via newsweek.com and r.statista.com.

The goal of this voluntary survey is to **highlight hospitals who systematically implement innovative technologies for the improvement of care outcomes**.

An outline of the topics covered in the Statista Smart Hospitals Maturity Survey can be found below and the full questionnaire can be accessed via this link.

The SSHMS is structured around **10 topics:**

- **Accreditations** (e.g., accreditations or certifications obtained pertaining to information technology)
- **Artificial Intelligence** (e.g., usage of AI and machine learning tools for data analysis and evaluation)
- **Electronic Functionalities** (e.g., available options for patients via the patient portal)
- **Employee Satisfaction Surveys** (e.g., regarding the effectiveness of digital technologies and services)
- **Hospital Information System** (e.g., implementation status of laboratory information system)
- **Patient Safety Technologies** (e.g., implementation of decision support tools to identify potential risks)
- **Patient Satisfaction Surveys** (e.g., regarding the effectiveness of digital technologies and services)
- **Robotics** (e.g., implementation and evaluation of robotic surgery)
- **Telemedicine** (e.g., implementation of technical equipment to conduct teleconsultations)
- **Virtualization** (e.g., usage or Virtual and Augmented Reality in patient services or departments)

To qualify for the evaluation, survey results had to be validated by an authorized representative of the hospital's senior management, such as the Managing Director, a member of the senior executive team, or the Chief Information / Digital Officer.

Furthermore, a grading system was applied to determine the Statista Smart Hospitals Maturity score. There is no minimum score requirement for hospitals to be included in the grading. The grading system for the SSHMS score is based on the following topics, each contributing to the overall score according to the specified weights:

Statista Smart Hospitals Maturity Topic	Weight
Accreditations	1/9
Artificial Intelligence	1/9
Electronic Functionalities	1/9
Employee Satisfaction Surveys	1/18
Hospital Information System	1/9
Patient Safety Technologies	1/9
Patient Satisfaction Surveys	1/18
Robotics	1/9
Telemedicine	1/9
Virtualization	1/9

The topics *employee satisfaction survey* and *patient satisfaction survey* were given a lower weight, as they are closely related and considered a combined topic. For all topics except the *hospital information system*, examples were requested from participants who answered *yes*.

To further highlight the efforts of participating hospitals in the field of innovative technologies, a range of one to three ribbons is displayed. The criteria for the ribbons, indicating the level of excellence within the SSHMS, are displayed in the following way:

- 1 Ribbon: Less than 80% of the SSHMS score
- 2 Ribbons: 80% to less than 90% of the SSHMS score *and* at least 7 out of 10 topics answered
- 3 Ribbons: 90% or more of the SSHMS score *and* at least 9 out of 10 topics answered

The upcoming survey cycle, which will be valid for the *World's Best Smart Hospitals* ranking published in 2026, will be announced on newsweek.com, r.statista.com and shared via email with pre-registered participants. Hospitals interested in participating in future cycles can pre-register through the provided link here.

The SSHMS score constitutes 20% to the overall hospital score.

3.2.3 JCI Accreditation

The JCI Accreditation was included as an additional element of the scoring model.

The **Joint Commission International (JCI)**, a worldwide leader in advancing quality improvement and patient safety in healthcare, signifies a healthcare organization's dedication to achieving high standards of quality and patient safety (Joint Commission International, 2025).

While the JCI Accreditation itself is not explicitly labeled as a smart hospital accreditation, it is inherently related to the concept of smart hospitals, as it supports the implementation of advanced technologies and practices that enhance the overall quality of healthcare delivery. The accreditation standards for hospitals include aspects such as information technology, data-driven decision-making, and general continuous improvement. (Joint Commission International, 2025)

The list of Joint Commission accredited institutions can be found here:

https://www.jointcommissioninternational.org/who-we-are/accredited-organizations/#sort=%40aoname%20ascending

For healthcare organizations from the United States, the accreditation from **The Joint Commission (TJC)** was used as an equivalent.

The list of Joint Commission accredited institutions can be found here:

https://www.jointcommission.org/who-we-are/who-we-work-with/find-accredited-organizations#numberOfResults=25

The JCI Accreditation constitutes 2.5% of the overall hospital score.

3.3 Quality Assurance via Desk Research

Every nominated hospital was reviewed through a rigorous process.

All nominated hospitals must be known for technical innovations and a leadership role in the field of smart hospitals. Eligibility for the ranking was based on results from the international survey and the passing of the quality assurance process.

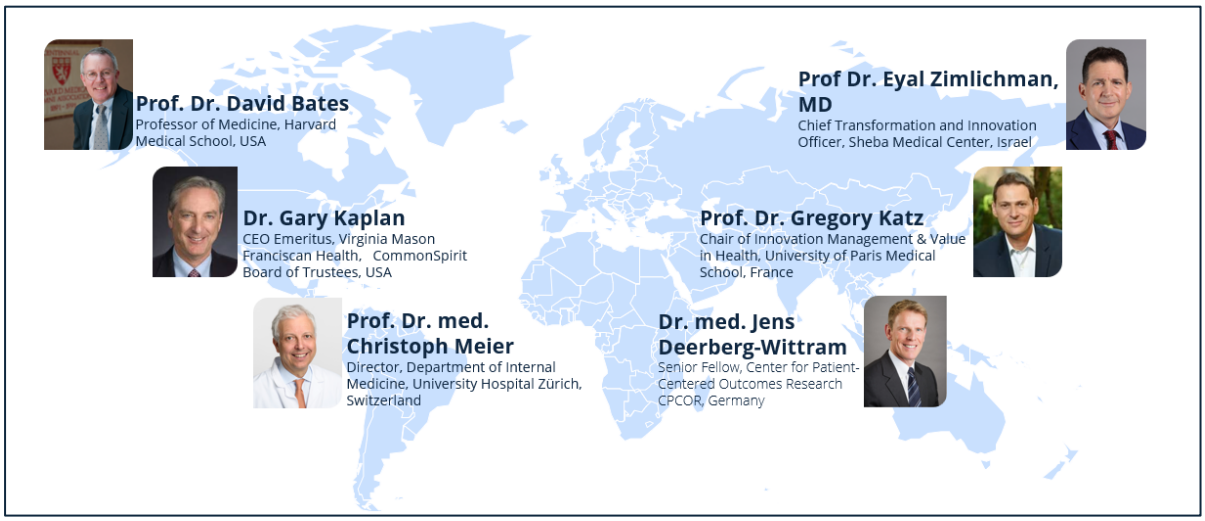
The project team conducted **desk research** and analyzed the implementation of smart technologies in eligible hospitals. To identify relevant technological innovations, a variety of sources were consulted, including established healthcare technology websites such as *healthcareglobal.com*, scientific publications like those found on *PubMed*, or official press releases. The search was guided by the topics used in the survey, which served as primary keywords. In addition, a range of supplementary keywords was applied to broaden the search scope, for example: Technological innovation, Internet of Things (IoT), machine learning, smart buildings, and preventive analytics.

3.4 Methodological Input by the Expert Board

The following section outlines the function of the global board of experts which was founded by Statista to support the methodology development for Statista's global hospital rankings.

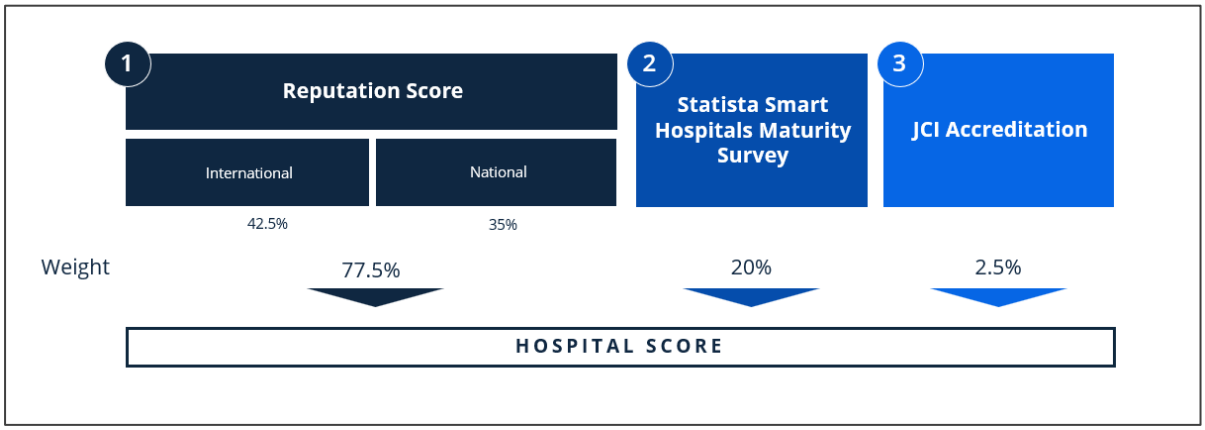
The idea behind the board of experts was to create an independent body that was tasked with the continuous development of the quality and scope of the project. The board of experts was tasked to provide input on possible improvements and expansions of the current questionnaires and methodology, most notably the SSHMS. The members of the board of experts were carefully chosen based on their national and international expertise and decade-long experience in their respective medical fields as well as their scientific output.

The current members of the board of experts are:



3.5 Scoring Model

The scoring model is based on the reputation score, the SSHMS score, and the JCI Accreditation score and uses different weights for the individual components as shown in this overview:



As shown above, international recommendations from experts account for 42.5% of each hospital's reputation score. National recommendations from medical professionals received a weight of 35% towards the reputation score. International recommendations were weighted higher than national recommendations, reinforcing the international focus of this ranking. Recommendations from the 2024 and 2023 survey period were given less weight compared to those from 2025. The total reputation score accounts for 77.5%

of the overall hospital score. The SSHMS accounts for 20% of the overall hospitals score and the JCI Accreditation score for 2.5%.

Based on the overall hospital score, hospitals are ranked top to bottom. The results of this ranking are displayed in the lists published by Newsweek.

This year's ranking features hospitals from 30 countries:

Country	Hospitals awarded
United States	103
Germany	24
United Kingdom	22
France	20
Italy	18
South Korea	17
Spain	16
Canada	13
Taiwan	13
Switzerland	12
Japan	10
Singapore	10
Saudi Arabia	8
Australia	7
The Netherlands	7
United Arab Emirates	7
Brazil	5
Denmark	5
Israel	5
Norway	5
Finland	4
Sweden	4
Austria	3

Belgium	3
India	2
Malaysia	2
Thailand	2
Columbia	1
Lebanon	1
Mexico	1

4 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 July 01, 2024 – July 01, 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.

Literature

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