

METHODOLOGY

America's Best Hospitals for Specialized Care **2026**

Scope, Data Collection, Evaluation, and Results

statista 

Newsweek



Methodology – America’s Best Hospitals for Specialized Care 2026

Summary of the project

- The **America’s Best Hospitals for Specialized Care** ranking recognizes the leading hospitals in the U.S. across the following seven 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 **Endocrine** Care, Top 200 Hospitals for **Neurological** Care, Top 200 Hospitals for **Orthopedic** Care, Top 200 Hospitals for **Pulmonary** Care, and Top 175 Hospitals for **Gastrointestinal Care** (new this edition).
- 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**: Quality data with a focus on indicators relevant to the respective medical specialties as well as various accreditations/certifications were considered.
 - **Nationwide online survey**: During the survey period from February to March 2026, 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**: Publicly available data from hospital patient surveys by HCAHPS were used to analyze patient experience.⁽¹⁾
 - **Statista PROMs Implementation Survey**: Newsweek and Statista conduct an annual PROMs Implementation Survey to account for the increasing importance of Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs).
- 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 2026 edition

- The following list provides a brief overview of all **major changes in this year's edition** compared to the 2025 rankings:
 - **Inclusion of additional hospital quality metrics data sources:** Leapfrog Hospital Safety and Quality data have been included, as well as additional metrics from CMS.
 - This year, AHA and Arcadia data were not used in the calculation of this year's hospital quality metrics score.
 - Inclusion of additional accreditation from the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)
 - **Updated Statista PROMs Implementation Survey:** For the most recent data collection cycle, the survey, eligibility thresholds, and ribbon allocation for participating hospitals were updated.
 - **Increased PROMs implementation weighting:** This year, the weighting of the PROMs implementation pillar was increased within the scoring model to reflect the growing emphasis on standardized and patient-centered care.

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 **Leapfrog** 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 the following groups⁽³⁾:
 - Mortality
 - Safety of care
 - Readmissions
 - Timely & effective care
 - Patient-reported outcomes⁽⁴⁾
 - PPS-Exempt Cancer Hospitals (PCH) - Palliative care measures⁽⁵⁾
- Hospital quality metrics from the **Leapfrog Hospital Survey** cover a broad range of safety and quality measures.
- Data was available for the following groups⁽⁶⁾:
 - Patient Rights and Ethics
 - Medication Safety
 - Adult and Pediatric Complex Surgery
 - Physician and Nurse Staffing
 - Patient Safety Practices
 - Managing Serious Errors
 - Outpatient Procedures

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY

Available data on U.S. hospitals was analyzed

Hospital quality metrics – Part 2

1 Hospital quality metrics – Accreditations & certifications

- Several accreditations/certifications/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 relevant for the specialized rankings:

General accreditations:

- Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC)
- Planetree
- The Joint Commission (TJC)

Specialty-specific accreditations:

- Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT)⁽²⁾
- National Association of Epilepsy Centers (NAEC)
- National Cancer Institute (NCI)⁽²⁾
- National Institute on Aging (NIA)
- The American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE)⁽²⁾
- The Joint Commission (TJC)

- In addition to general hospital certifications, available **accreditations/certifications relevant to specific medical fields** (e.g., TJC “Advanced Total Hip and Knee Replacement” for orthopedic hospitals, Advanced Comprehensive Heart Attack Center Certification for cardiac hospitals) were used.

SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY

6 (1) Additional information about the accreditations/certifications is available here: [ASGE](#), [ACHC](#), [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 2026, Statista invited tens of thousands of medical professionals (primarily doctors, but also hospital managers and other healthcare professionals) to an online survey. The survey was also promoted on [newsweek.com](https://www.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 their own employer/hospital were not allowed.



Analysis of **nationwide recommendations** for each of the six medical fields⁽¹⁾. The recommendations from this year and two prior years were taken into account⁽²⁾. Recommendations from the 2024-2025 survey period were given smaller weights compared to those from 2026.

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⁾.
- Data from the survey on patient experience covers the following topics associated to patient care:
 - Cleanliness of the hospital
 - Communication with 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 in hospitals, the auditing and reporting of their PROMs data, and whether the data is used to optimize care processes and support therapeutic decisions in real-time.
- Statista has partnered with the **International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM)** as a knowledge partner. ICHOM is the world's leading non-profit organization dedicated to the development of standardized measurement of patient-important outcomes. 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.
- This year, the survey was updated to more comprehensively assess PROMs implementation across several domains and now requires extensive proof documentation⁽²⁾.
- A grading system⁽³⁾ assigning specific weights to all survey questions is used to determine the PROMs implementation score for each participating hospital. The PROMs score, if available, contributes up to 6.5% towards a hospital's total score.
- Additionally, each participating hospital is assigned 1-5 ribbons⁽²⁾ for their level of PROMs implementation, which is displayed in the published lists.
- Future survey cycles will be announced online by [Statista](#) and [Newsweek](#), as well as sent via e-mail to registered participants. Registrations can be submitted to: hospitals@statista.com or [here](#).

SCORE FOR PROMS IMPLEMENTATION

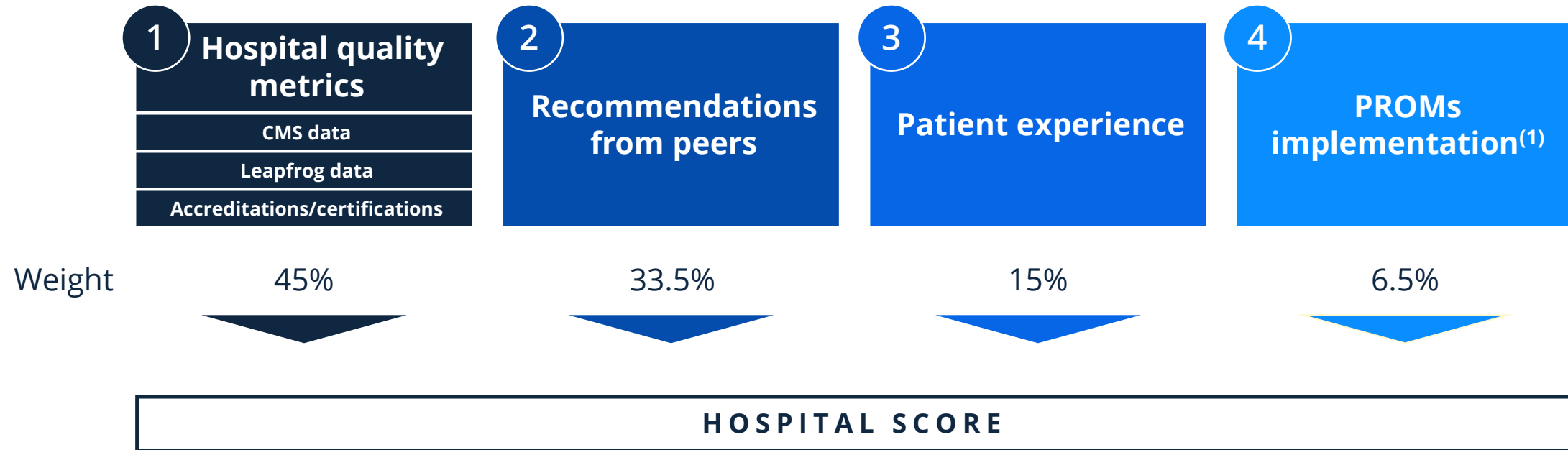
9 (1) For an overview of the specific questions, a PDF version of the PROMs Implementation Survey can be accessed [here](#).

(2) Please note that the survey methodology underwent substantial revision this survey cycle, including stricter proof requirements and a transition from a 3-ribbon to a 5-ribbon scoring scale. As a result, ribbon allocations may differ from previous years even in cases where hospitals have maintained comparable levels of PROMs implementation, as performance is now assessed across a broader and more detailed set of criteria. Please see the *America's Best Hospitals for Specialized Care* extended methodology for further information.

(3) A detailed breakdown of the PROMs Implementation Survey methodology, including scoring model, weighting, and ribbon assignment is available in the *America's Best Hospitals for Specialized Care* extended methodology.

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



Example: Hospitals for Cardiac Care

Rank	Hospital	City	State	Standout Specialty	PROMs
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	4 Ribbons
2	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 Ribbons
3	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	4 Ribbons
4	NYU Langone Hospitals - Tisch Hospital	New York City	New York	Chronic ischemic heart disease, Coronary artery disease, Heart bypass surgery (CABG), Heart valve surgery, Heart transplant, Coronary Angioplasty & Stent Placement	
5	The Johns Hopkins Hospital	Baltimore	Maryland	Chronic ischemic heart disease, 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 and Newsweek comprise the strong partner network behind *America's Best Hospitals for Specialized Care*

Partner Network



About Statista R

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 rankings.statista.com.

Statista R is a division of **statista** . The leading data and business intelligence portal provides an extensive collection of statistics, reports, and insights on over 80,000 topics from 22,500 sources in 170 industries. Find out more at statista.com.



About Newsweek

Newsweek is a premier news magazine and website that has been bringing high-quality journalism to readers around the globe for over 80 years.

Newsweek provides the latest news, in-depth analysis and ideas about international issues, technology, business, culture and politics. In addition to its online and mobile presence, Newsweek publishes weekly English print editions in the United States, Europe/Middle East/Africa and Asia as well as editions in Japanese, Korean, Polish, Serbian and Spanish.

newsweek.com

ICHOM and Leapfrog as core knowledge and data partners behind the *America's Best Hospitals for Specialized Care* ranking

Partner Network



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.



About The Leapfrog Group

The Leapfrog Hospital Survey was created and is administered by The Leapfrog Group (<https://www.leapfroggroup.org/>), a leading independent, national not-for-profit organization advocating for hospital transparency.

They strive to make giant "leaps" forward in the U.S. by promoting transparency through their data collection and public reporting initiatives.

With their goal of saving lives by reducing errors, injuries, accidents, and infections, The Leapfrog Group focuses on measuring and publicly reporting hospital performance through the annual Leapfrog Hospital Survey. The survey is a trusted, transparent and evidence-based national tool in which over 2,400 hospitals voluntarily participate free of charge.

The Leapfrog Group advocates for public access to quality and safety data from all U.S. hospitals.

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 04/04/2025–04/03/2026 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.