



Explanation of Hospital Safety Grades

SPRING 2018

EXPLANATION OF HOSPITAL SAFETY GRADES

SPRING 2018

Using 27 evidence-based measures of patient safety, The Leapfrog Group calculated a numerical score for all eligible hospitals in the U.S. (For a list of exclusion criteria, download a copy of the scoring methodology at www.HospitalSafetyGrade.org). The numerical score was then converted into one of five letter grades. "A" represents the best Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, followed in order by "B," "C," "D," and "F."

The letter grade cut-points first established in Fall 2017 will continue to be used this spring. Hospitals with a numerical score greater than or equal to 3.159 earn an "A." Hospitals with a numerical score less than 3.159, but greater than or equal to 2.971 earn a "B." Hospitals with a numerical score less than 2.971, but greater than or equal to 2.502 earn a "C." Hospitals with a numerical score between 1.5 standard deviations and 3.0 standard deviations below the mean earn a "D," and hospitals with a numerical score more than 3.0 standard deviations below the mean earn an "F."

This spring, the numerical scores ranged between approximately 1.2 and 3.9 with an average score of approximately 3.0. The numerical cut-points are adjusted down by three standard errors. For a detailed explanation of the scoring methodology, please visit www.HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

In implementing this letter grade methodology, the distribution of letter grades is detailed below:

Grade	Safety Grade Criteria (at or above cut-point)	Count of Hospitals	Percentage of Hospitals
A	≥ 3.159	750	30%
B	≥ 2.971	683	28%
C	≥ 2.502	879	35%
D	≥ 2.043	145	6%
F	< 2.043	22	1%

Higher is Better

