



# Explanation of Hospital Safety Grades

FALL 2019

# EXPLANATION OF HOSPITAL SAFETY GRADES

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Using 28 evidence-based measures of patient safety, The Leapfrog Group calculated a numerical score for all eligible hospitals in the U.S. 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 methodology first established in Fall 2018 is being used this Fall.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, letter grade cut-points for "A," "B," and "C" grades remain the same. Letter grade cut-points for "D" and "F" have been reset per the methodology. This Fall, hospitals with a numerical score between 1.5 standard deviations and 3.0 standard deviations below the mean ( $\geq 2.034$ ) earn a "D," and hospitals with a numerical score more than 3.0 standard deviations below the mean ( $< 2.034$ ) earn an "F."

Numerical scores range between approximately 1.8 and 3.8, with an average score of approximately 3.0. The numerical cut-point for D and F grades is adjusted down by three standard errors.

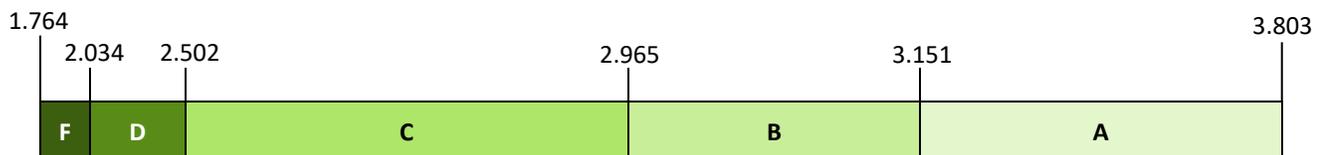
For information on exclusion criteria and a detailed explanation of the scoring methodology, please visit [www.HospitalSafetyGrade.org](http://www.HospitalSafetyGrade.org).

Please note: Numerical scores are displayed for hospitals on the [Safety Grade Review Website](#) to four decimal places (i.e. n.nnnn). For the purposes of assigning a letter grade, the numerical score is not rounded. For example, a numerical score displayed as 3.1509 would be assigned a B.

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	$\geq 3.151$	878	33%
B	$\geq 2.965$	652	25%
C	$\geq 2.502$	896	34%
D	$\geq 2.034$	198	8%
F	$< 2.034$	9	<1%

*Higher is Better*



<sup>1</sup> In Fall 2018, hospitals with a numerical score 0.6 standard deviations or more above the mean (3.151) earned an "A." Hospitals with a numerical score at the mean and up to 0.6 standard deviations above the mean (2.965) earned a "B." Hospitals with a numerical score between the mean and 1.5 standard deviations below the mean (2.502) earned 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." All cut-points were adjusted down by three standard errors.