



Explanation of Hospital Safety Grades

SPRING 2017

EXPLANATION OF HOSPITAL SAFETY GRADES

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Using 30 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 methodology first established in Spring 2016 will continue to be used this spring. Hospitals with a numerical score greater than or equal to 3.164 earn an "A." Hospitals with a numerical score less than 3.164, but greater than or equal to 2.972 earn a "B." Hospitals with a numerical score less than 2.972, but greater than or equal to 2.493 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 score more than 3.0 standard deviations below the mean earn an "F."

This spring, the numerical scores ranged between approximately 1.7 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	≥ 3.164	823	31%
B	≥ 2.972	706	27%
C	≥ 2.493	933	35%
D	≥ 2.043	167	6%
F	< 2.043	10	<1%

