LEAPFROG
HOSPITAL
SAFETY GRADE

Explanation of Hospital Safety Grades

SPRING 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. (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 Fall 2018 will continue to be used this Spring. Letter grade cut-points for "A", "B", and "C" grades remain the same. Letter grade cut-points for "D" and "F" have been reset. Hospitals with a numerical score greater than or equal to 3.151 earn an "A." Hospitals with a numerical score less than 3.151, but greater than or equal to 2.965 earn a "B." Hospitals with a numerical score less than 2.965, 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 1.9 and 3.7 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	≥ 3.151	832	32%
B	≥ 2.965	681	26%
C	≥ 2.502	938	36%
D	≥ 2.077	159	6%
F	< 2.077	9	<1%

Higher is Better

1.888					3.713
2.077	2.502		2.965	3.151	
F	D	C	B	A	