



Explanation of Hospital Safety Score Grades

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Using 30 evidence-based measures of patient safety, The Leapfrog Group calculated a numerical safety score for all eligible hospitals in the U.S. (For a list of exclusion criteria, download a copy of the scoring methodology at www.HospitalSafetyScore.org). The numerical safety score was then converted into one of five letter grades. "A" represents the best Hospital Safety Score, followed in order by "B," "C," "D," and "F."

Hospitals with a numerical safety score 0.6 standard deviations or more above the mean earn an "A." Hospitals with a numerical safety score at the mean and up to 0.6 standard deviations above the mean earn a "B." Hospitals with a numerical safety score at the mean and down to 1.5 standard deviations below the mean earn a "C." Hospitals between 1.5 standard deviations and 3.0 standard deviations below the mean earn a "D," and hospitals more than 3.0 standard deviations below the mean earn an "F."

This spring, the numerical scores ranged between 1.70 and 3.98 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.HospitalSafetyScore.org.

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

Grade	Safety Score Criteria <i>(at or above cut-point)</i>		Count of Hospitals	Percentage of Hospitals
A	≥ 3.164	0.6 SDs Above Mean	798	31%
B	≥ 2.972	0.0 SDs Above Mean	639	25%
C	≥ 2.493	1.5 SDs Below Mean	957	37%
D	≥ 2.014	3.0 SDs Below Mean	162	6%
F	< 2.014	More than 3.0 SDs Below Mean	15	1%
Totals			2571	

