DISTINGUISHED HOSPITAL AWARD FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE 2016

January 2016

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Healthgrades announcing on January 19, 2016?

On January 19th Healthgrades is releasing the 2016 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence analysis and recipient list. These hospitals are differentiated by their overall clinical excellence and have exhibited superior performance in clinical outcomes for patients across a broad spectrum of care.

How many hospitals achieved this distinction?

260 hospitals achieved the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence in 2016. This recognition places these hospitals in the top 5% of hospitals in the nation.

What are the key messages from the 2016 analysis?

- This year’s analysis found that recipients of the Healthgrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence have a trend of improved clinical outcomes in the treatment of sepsis.

- The 2016 analysis shows a relationship between improved clinical performance in sepsis treatment and improved clinical performance in other hospital-system conditions such as Pneumonia, COPD, Stroke, Respiratory Failure, and Heart Failure.

- The Healthgrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence in 2016 recipients represent the top 5% of hospitals in the nation. These hospitals are differentiated by their overall clinical excellence, as measured by objective, clinical outcomes (risk-adjusted mortality and in-hospital complications) across at least 21 of 32 of most common diagnoses/procedures.

- From 2012 - 2014, if all hospitals performed as a group at the level of the 2016 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence recipients, on average 158,858 lives could have potentially been saved.

- From 2012 - 2014, patients treated at Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence recipients as a group, had an overall 26.5% lower risk of dying than if they were treated in hospitals that did not receive the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence for treatments across 19 rated conditions and procedures where mortality is the outcome.
How were hospitals determined as a Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence recipient?

To be eligible for the Healthgrades Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence, a hospital had to have been evaluated for its performance in at least 21 of 32 most common procedures and conditions, which are based on Medicare inpatient data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Medicare Provider Analysis and Review (MedPAR) data files. After creating a list of eligible hospitals that met these criteria, Healthgrades took the following steps to identify the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence recipients:

1. Determine eligibility based on the criteria mentioned above.

2. Calculated the overall performance score for each hospital by using volume-weighted z-scores averaged across all complications, in-hospital mortality, and 30-day mortality based cohorts. Volume weights represent the proportion of patients within a given cohort. The proportion is calculated as the ratio of patients in a cohort over total patients across all cohorts. The individual influence of complications, in-hospital mortality, and 30-day mortality outcomes on the overall performance score was accounted for by weighting each outcome by 0.5, 0.4, and 0.6, respectively.

3. Sorted hospitals in descending order based on their overall performance score.

4. Determined the top 5% of hospitals on the list (which is represented by the 260 of all hospitals in the nation evaluated by Healthgrades).

How does Healthgrades determine hospital quality?

Healthgrades evaluates hospital performance for over 4,500 hospitals across the nation in 39 procedures and conditions annually. Healthgrades.com provides information on objective measures of hospital performance, which allows consumers to compare their local hospitals online at www.healthgrades.com. Healthgrades evaluates hospital performance for nearly every hospital in the nation; no hospital can opt-in or opt-out of being evaluated, and no hospital pays to be evaluated. Mortality and complication rates are risk adjusted, which takes into account differing levels of severity of patient illness at different hospitals and allows for hospitals to be compared equally.

For more information about the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence recipients, please visit www.Healthgrades.com/quality or contact Jennifer Newman, VP of Public Relations at jnewman@healthgrades.com.