



Explanation of Safety Score Grades

April 2015

Using 28 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."

The letter grade methodology established in October 2014 will be used again this spring. Hospitals with a numerical safety score greater than or equal to 3.151 earn an "A," hospitals with a numerical safety score greater than or equal to 2.962 and less than 3.151 earn a "B", and hospitals with a numerical safety greater than or equal to 2.485 and less than 2.962 earn a "C". Hospitals who's score was less than 2.485 but greater than or equal to 2.035 earn a "D", and hospitals with a score below 2.035 earn an "F".

This spring, the numerical scores ranged between 0.856 and 3.678 with an average score very close to 3.0. 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 (at or above cut-point)	Count of Hospitals	Percentage of Hospitals
A	≥ 3.151	782	30.92%
B	≥ 2.962	719	28.43%
C	≥ 2.485	859	33.69%
D	≥ 2.035	143	6.05%
F	< 2.035	20	0.91%
Totals		2523	

