



Explanation of Safety Score Grades

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This fall, The Leapfrog group added two additional measures to its previous set of 26 national measures used in the Hospital Safety Score: Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection and Surgical Site Infection for Major Colon Surgery. With these 28 measures, The Leapfrog Group calculates 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 is then converted into one of five letter grades. "A" denotes the best hospital safety performance, 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 (2.962) up to 0.6 standard deviations above the mean earn a "B." Hospitals 1.5 standard deviations below the mean to the mean earn a "C." Hospitals 3.0 standard deviations below the mean to 1.5 standard deviations below the mean earn a "D," and hospitals more than 3.0 standard deviations below the mean earn an "F."

This fall, the numerical scores ranged between 1.3943 and 3.7517 with an average score very close to 3.0. The numerical cutpoints below include three standard errors. See below (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 cutpoint)	Standard Deviations	Count of Hospitals	Percentage of Hospitals
A	≥ 3.151	0.6 SDs Above Mean	813	32%
B	≥ 2.962	0.0 SDs Above Mean	661	26%
C	≥ 2.488	1.5 SDs Below Mean	893	35%
D	≥ 2.015	3.0 SDs Below Mean	150	6%
F		More than 3.0 SDs Below Mean	22	0.9%
Totals			2,539	

