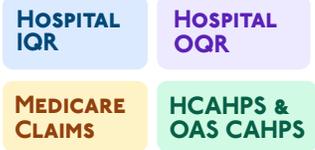


1 Hospitals Submit Data

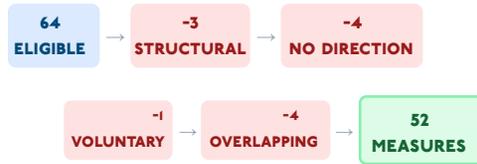
Data flows to CMS through quality programs and claims



Also used for HACRP, HRRP, and HVBP programs. April 2026 rating uses October 2025 Care Compare data.

2 Select Measures

CMS chooses which published measures to include



3 Standardize Scores

Convert each measure to a Z-score; flip direction so higher = better



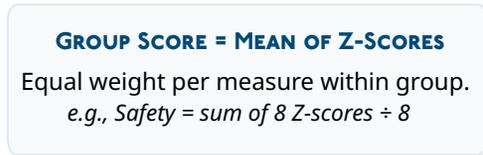
4 Group into 5 Categories

Organize 52 measures by clinical quality area



5 Average Within Groups

Simple mean of Z-scores within each group



Report 6 of 8?
Each counts 1/6 (16.7%).

6 Standardize Groups

Z-score again at the group level so groups are comparable



7 Weight & Combine

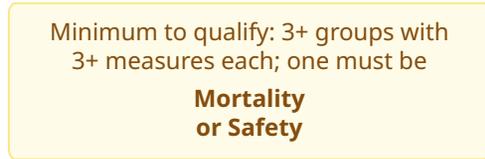
Multiple standardize score by group weights then sum results to produce one Hospital Summary Score



Outcomes (88%) weighted more than process (12%)

8 Exclude or Re-Weight

Not all hospitals report every group; weights adjust



Missing a group?
Weights re-proportion across remaining groups

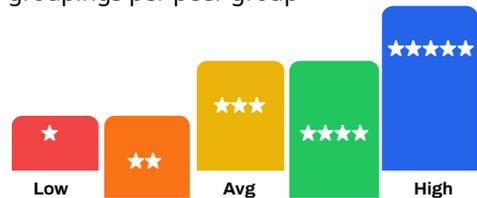
9 Assign Peer Groups

Hospitals compared only to peers with similar data breadth



10 K-Means Clustering

Statistically sort scores into 5 natural groupings per peer group



Clustering means no fixed cut points - adapts to each year's distribution and based on peer grouping.

11 Safety Cap NEW 2026

Bottom-quartile Safety score triggers a cap on stars



Bottom 25% Safety + 3+ safety measures → max 4 stars

2026: 15 hospitals affected
2027: changes to a 1-star reduction for bottom quartile safety performers

12 Rating Published



Published on Care Compare

