

Hospital Ratings

Avoiding Infections

Our hospitals have turned into breeding grounds for dangerous—even deadly—infections. Consumer Reports has expanded its hospital Ratings and now includes information about two common and deadly infections: MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) and C. difficile (Clostridium difficile). Consumer Reports’ new Ratings of more than 3,000 U.S. hospitals show which do a good job of avoiding these infections, and which do not. The numbers are staggering: every year in the U.S., 648,000 people develop infections during a hospital stay, and 75,000 people die as a result. That’s more than twice the number of people who die each year in car crashes. Many of these illnesses and deaths can be traced back to the use of antibiotics, the very drugs that are supposed to fight the infections. While some hospitals are taking steps to reduce infections and inappropriate antibiotic use, others appear to be making little effort.

Most hospitals report their infection rates for five different hospital-acquired infections to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Consumer Reports has analyzed this data, and rated hospitals based on their performance in avoiding the following infections: MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus infections), C. difficile (Clostridium difficile) infections, central-line associated bloodstream infections, catheter-associated urinary tract infections, and surgical-site infections. We also developed an infections composite measure (“Avoiding Infections Overall Rating”), which indicates how a hospital did across all five infections. To read the story that accompanies the Ratings, please visit: <http://consumerreports.org/cro/hospitalinfections2015>. This story is part of a 3-part investigative series on [antibiotics resistance](#).

About the infections data:

Data on hospital infections comes from information that hospitals reported to the CDC between October 2013 and September 2014, the most recent data available at the time of this report. All data are adjusted by the CDC to account for factors such as the health of a hospital’s patients, its size, and whether it is a teaching hospital. For more details on the method please see <http://www.consumerreports.org/HowWeRateHospitals>.

How to interpret the individual infection Ratings (not the composite):

	Infection Rating	Interpretation
Better Worse		0 infections
		At least 50% better than national baseline
		Between the national baseline and 50% better than national baseline
		Up to and including 100% worse than national baseline
		More than 100% worse than national baseline

National baselines are from the CDC and are based on historical data.

Not Yet Rated: This means a hospital did not have enough data for us to calculate a Rating.

Chicago Area – Avoiding Infections

Consumer Reports has expanded its hospital Ratings and now includes information about two common and deadly infections: MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus) and C. difficile (Clostridium difficile).

Below are Ratings for the nine largest hospitals (300+ beds) in the Chicago area.

- **Presence Saints Mary & Elizabeth Medical Center** was the only large hospital in the area to receive a higher Rating for the “Avoiding Infections Overall Rating,” which evaluates performance across all five infection categories.
- **Presence Saint Joseph Hospital** received CR’s second-highest Rating for avoiding MRSA infections.
- **Presence Resurrection Medical Center** received CR’s second-highest Rating for avoiding MRSA infections, but received the second-lowest Rating for avoiding C. difficile infections.
- **Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center** and **Northwestern Memorial Hospital** received CR’s second-lowest Rating in avoiding MRSA infections.
- **Rush University Medical Center, University of Chicago Medical Center, and University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System** all received CR’s second-lowest Rating for avoiding C. difficile infections.



Large hospitals (300+beds) in the Chicago area. Sorted alphabetically.

Hospital Name	Avoiding Infections Overall Rating	Avoiding MRSA Infections	Avoiding C. difficile Infections	Avoiding Central-line Infections	Avoiding Catheter-Urinary Tract Infections	Avoiding Surgical Site Infections
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center	○	◐	○	◑	◐	○
John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County	○	○	◑	○	◐	◑
Northwestern Memorial Hospital	◐	◐	○	○	◐	○
Presence Resurrection Medical Center	◐	◑	◐	●	○	○
Presence Saint Joseph Hospital	○	◑	○	◐	◑	◑
Presence Saints Mary & Elizabeth Medical Center	◑	◑	○	◑	●	○
Rush University Medical Center	○	○	◐	◑	○	●
University of Chicago Medical Center	◐	○	◐	◑	○	○
University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System	○	○	◐	◑	○	○

Consumer Reports’ complete infection Ratings for all hospitals in the Chicago area can be found on the next page.

Hospital-acquired infections are only one measure of hospital quality. Consumer Reports also evaluates individual hospitals for readmissions, mortality, patient experience, C-section rates, and other criteria. Full Ratings for hospitals are available to subscribers at <http://www.ConsumerReports.org/hospitalratings>.

For the “Avoiding Infections” Ratings above and on the following pages, note that hospital performance can vary across the different infection categories. For example, if a hospital receives a higher Rating in one area of infections, that does not mean it does well across the board.

Chicago Area – Avoiding Infections



All hospitals, listed alphabetically.

Hospital Name	Avoiding Infections Overall Rating	Avoiding MRSA Infections	Avoiding C. difficile Infections	Avoiding Central-line Infections	Avoiding Catheter Urinary Tract Infections	Avoiding Surgical-site Infections
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center	○	◐	○	◑	◐	○
Advocate Trinity Hospital*	◐	●	◐	◐	○	◐
Holy Cross Hospital	◐	●	○	●	◐	○
Jackson Park Hospital and Medical Center*	◑	◐	◑	●	●	Not Yet Rated
John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County	○	○	◑	○	◐	◑
Loretto Hospital*	◑	Not Yet Rated	◑	●	○	Not Yet Rated
Louis A. Weiss Memorial Hospital*	○	●	○	◑	○	●
Mercy Hospital and Medical Center	○	◑	○	◑	◐	●
Methodist Hospital of Chicago*	●	Not Yet Rated	●	Not Yet Rated	●	Not Yet Rated
Mount Sinai Hospital	○	○	◑	◑	○	◐
Northwestern Memorial Hospital	◐	◐	○	○	◐	○
Norwegian American Hospital	◐	●	◑	◐	◐	Not Yet Rated
Presence Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center	○	◑	○	◑	◑	◐
Presence Resurrection Medical Center	◐	◑	◐	●	○	○
Presence Saint Joseph Hospital	○	◑	○	◐	◑	◑
Presence Saints Mary & Elizabeth Medical Center	◑	◑	○	◑	●	○
Provident Hospital of Cook County	◑	Not Yet Rated	○	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated
Roseland Community Hospital*	○	Not Yet Rated	○	○	●	Not Yet Rated
Rush University Medical Center	○	○	◐	◑	○	●
Saint Anthony Hospital	◐	◐	◑	●	◐	Not Yet Rated
South Shore Hospital	○	◐	○	○	○	Not Yet Rated
St. Bernard Hospital and Health Care Center	○	○	○	○	◑	Not Yet Rated
Swedish Covenant Hospital	○	◑	○	◑	○	○
Thorek Memorial Hospital	◐	Not Yet Rated	◐	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated
University of Chicago Medical Center	◐	○	◐	◑	○	○
University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System	○	○	◐	◑	○	○

*Although this hospital reported zero infections [●] for one or more categories in the table above, due to low patient volume this result is not statistically better than national rates.