



Minnesota Hospitals are National Leaders in Quality and Patient Safety

- ▶ **Minnesota ranked among the top 10 percent of U.S. states in achieving high benchmarks on quality of care measures** (2010 National Healthcare Quality Report, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; www.ahrq.gov/qual/nhqr10/Key.htm).
- ▶ **Minnesota is among the top 10 U.S. states for patient safety.** The top 10 have the lowest overall rates in 13 patient-safety indicators, combined (*HealthGrades, March 2011*; [PDF](#)).
- ▶ **Minnesota was the sixth-healthiest state in the nation in 2009 and in 2010.** The state enjoys a low premature death rate, a low rate of deaths from cardiovascular disease and a low rate of uninsured residents (*United Health Foundation*; <http://www.americashealthrankings.org/yearcompare/2009/2010/MN.aspx>).
- ▶ **Minnesota earned an “A” grade for its palliative care in an October 2011 study** by the Center to Advance Palliative Care at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. A total of 89 percent of the state's medium and larger hospitals offer the care that focuses on easing pain and discomfort while often continuing aggressive treatment for serious and chronic conditions. And 37 percent of Minnesota's smaller hospitals offer such programs. All together, 53 Minnesota facilities have palliative care programs (www.capc.org/reportcard/findings).
- ▶ **Minnesota and eight other states lead the nation with the lowest risk-adjusted bloodstream infection rates.** (*HealthGrades Patient Safety in American Hospitals Study 2011*; [PDF](#)).
- ▶ **Ten Minnesota hospitals — the second-highest number of any U.S. state — won a Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence Award in 2011** from health-care ratings company HealthGrades. The study, which assessed care provided to elderly Medicare inpatients, awarded honors to hospitals that had lower mortality rates and fewer complications from 2007 to 2009. In 2010, seven Minnesota hospitals earned the distinction (*January 2011*; www.healthgrades.com).
- ▶ **Together, Minneapolis and St. Paul have the safest hospitals in the nation among metro areas** with at least 1 million residents. The eighth-annual HealthGrades Patient Safety in American Hospitals Study showed that Twin Cities hospitals had the lowest rate of preventable medical mistakes. The study evaluated 13 indicators of potentially preventable patient safety events such as a foreign object unintentionally left behind in a patient's body during surgery. (*March 2011*; [PDF](#)).

- ▶ **Two Minnesota hospitals ranked among the nation’s top 100 hospitals in the Thomson Reuters’ “100 Top Hospitals” annual survey.** The award recognizes hospitals that have achieved excellence in clinical outcomes, patient safety, patient satisfaction, financial performance and operational efficiency. (*March 2011; www.100tophospitals.com*).
- ▶ **Twelve Minnesota hospitals won a 2011 “Patient Safety Excellence Award” from HealthGrades** (*March 2011; [PDF](#)*).
- ▶ **Two Minnesota hospital case studies were featured in a summer 2011 Commonwealth Fund report that showcases opportunities for all hospitals to achieve greater efficiency.** The case studies are among 13 that the Leapfrog Group designated “Highest Value Hospitals.” The Commonwealth Fund is a New York City-based health-care foundation nonprofit organization. Leapfrog is a Washington, D.C.-based organization that compares hospitals’ performance on safety, quality and efficiency.
- ▶ **The Mayo Clinic of Rochester was ranked as the second-best hospital in the nation in March 2011 by U.S. News & World Report magazine.** The magazine’s “Best Hospitals 2010-11” report also included a ranking of hospitals by metro area. **The University of Minnesota Medical Center, Abbott Northwestern Hospital and Hennepin County Medical Center, all of Minneapolis, were among the select 152 in the nation cited for top performance in any specialty** (<http://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals>).
- ▶ **In a 2010 joint promotional campaign with LifeSource — the organ and tissue donation organization for the Upper Midwest — Minnesota hospitals helped facilitate the addition of 106,000 new registrants as potential organ and tissue donors.** The Donate Life Minnesota Hospital Campaign provided hospitals with resources and educational programs to help hospitals promote donation among patients, staff members and hospitals’ wider communities.
- ▶ **In the inaugural year of the FluSafe campaign (winter 2010/2011), 68 Minnesota hospitals participated in the program that publicly recognizes health-care organizations that achieve high rates of influenza vaccinations among their employees.** Of those 68 hospitals, 27 organizations reached more than a 90-percent vaccination rate among workers.
- ▶ **More than 70 Minnesota hospitals are participating in a national effort to help prevent 4,000 avoidable readmissions to hospitals by Dec. 31, 2012.** The Minnesota Hospital Association is an organizer of the Reducing Avoidable Readmissions Effectively (RARE) Campaign in Minnesota.
- ▶ **A total of 50 care teams from Minnesota hospitals — the most of any state — have or are taking part in an 18-month project to improve care at patients’ bedsides through nurse-led innovations.** Transforming Care at the Bedside” (TCAB) works to empower nurses and other bedside caregivers to suggest, test and implement potential solutions to problems. TCAB is part of a national Aligning Forces for Quality (AF4Q) initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The national organizers of AF4Q say the Minnesota response to the TCAB offering is a testament to Minnesota’s history of leadership and collaboration in quality and patient safety efforts.

- ▶ Beginning in the fall of 2009, **the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) began collecting “Good Catch Award” nominations to recognize staff and physicians who demonstrate their commitment to keeping patients safe by “speaking up” to prevent a potential patient safety issue.** Nominations are accepted throughout the year and each quarter one or two individuals or teams are recognized to receive special recognition for outstanding achievement based on the nature of the good catch and the positive effect it had on patient safety.
- ▶ **Minnesota was the first state in 2003 to pass mandatory Adverse Health Event Reporting based on National Quality Forum standards.** The law created a reporting system that allows hospitals to learn from each **reported** event to prevent future errors.
 1. **The Minnesota Hospital Association has developed groundbreaking, statewide patient-safety campaigns that specifically target adverse health event challenges identified through reported events.** The campaigns combat the most-reported types of adverse health events: pressure ulcers, falls, retained foreign objects, wrong-site procedures, wrong-patient procedures and wrong procedures. (*Minnesota Hospital Association, 2011*).
 2. **Most Minnesota hospitals participate in the Minnesota Hospital Association’s five patient safety campaigns, which help hospitals implement adverse event prevention best practices** (*Minnesota Hospital Association, 2011*).

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