

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.

Atlanta Area – Avoiding Infections

Consumer Reports has expanded its Ratings of hospital-acquired infections rates 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 11 largest hospitals (400+ beds) in the Atlanta area.

- **West Georgia Health** received Consumer Reports' (CR's) two highest Ratings for four out of five infection categories; however it received CR's second-lowest Rating for avoiding MRSA. [Note: This hospital has significantly lower patient volume than the other hospitals with 400+ beds.]
- **Northside Hospital** received CR's second-highest Ratings for avoiding MRSA, central-line, and surgical-site infections.
- **Emory University Hospital, Emory University Hospital Midtown, and Piedmont Hospital** received CR's second-lowest Rating in avoiding both MRSA and C. difficile infections.
- **Gwinnett Hospital System and Northeast Georgia Medical Center** received CR's second-lowest Rating in avoiding MRSA infections.
- **WellStar Kennestone Hospital** received CR's second-lowest Rating in avoiding C. difficile infections.

Of note, two smaller hospitals (that appear on the pages following this one) of interest include: **Northside Hospital-Forsyth**, in Cumming, GA, that received CR's two highest Ratings in four out of five individual infection categories, and **Rockdale Medical Center** in Conyers, GA, that received CR's second-lowest Rating across all five individual infection categories.



Large hospitals (400+beds) in the Atlanta area. Sorted alphabetically.

Hospital Name	City	Avoiding Infections Overall Rating	Avoiding MRSA Infections	Avoiding C. difficile Infections	Avoiding Central-line Infections	Avoiding Catheter-urinary tract Infections	Avoiding Surgical-site Infections
Atlanta Medical Center	Atlanta	●	○	○	○	●	●
DeKalb Medical at North Decatur	Decatur	●	○	○	○	●	●
Emory University Hospital	Atlanta	○	●	●	●	●	●
Emory University Hospital Midtown	Atlanta	●	●	●	○	●	●
Grady Memorial Hospital	Atlanta	●	○	○	●	●	●
Gwinnett Hospital System	Lawrenceville	○	●	○	●	●	●
Northeast Georgia Medical Center	Gainesville	○	●	○	●	●	○
Northside Hospital	Atlanta	○	●	○	●	○	●
Piedmont Hospital	Atlanta	●	●	●	○	●	●
WellStar Kennestone Hospital	Marietta	●	○	●	●	●	●
West Georgia Health*	La Grange	●	●	●	●	●	●

*Although this hospital reported zero central-line infections [●], due to low patient volume this result is not statistically better than national rates.

Consumer Reports' complete infection Ratings for all hospitals in the Atlanta 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 experiences, 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.



Atlanta Area – Avoiding Infections

All hospitals, listed alphabetically.

Hospital Name	City	Avoiding Infections Overall Rating	Avoiding MRSA Infections	Avoiding C. difficile Infections	Avoiding Central-line Infections	Avoiding Catheter-urinary tract Infections	Avoiding Surgical-site Infections
Athens Regional Medical Center	Athens	●	●	●	○	●	●
Atlanta Medical Center	Atlanta	●	○	○	○	●	●
Barrow Regional Medical Center ⁺	Winder	●	Not Yet Rated	●	Not Yet Rated	●	Not Yet Rated
Cartersville Medical Center	Cartersville	●	●	●	○	●	●
Chestatee Regional Hospital	Dahlonega	●	Not Yet Rated	○	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated
Clearview Regional Medical Center ⁺	Monroe	○	Not Yet Rated	●	Not Yet Rated	●	Not Yet Rated
DeKalb Medical at Hillandale*	Lithonia	●	○	●	●	●	●
DeKalb Medical at North Decatur	Decatur	●	○	○	○	●	●
Eastside Medical Center	Snellville	●	●	●	●	●	●
Elbert Memorial Hospital*	Elberton	●	Not Yet Rated	●	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated
Emory Johns Creek Hospital*	Johns Creek	●	●	○	●	●	●
Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta	Atlanta	●	●	●	●	●	●
Emory University Hospital	Atlanta	○	●	●	●	●	●
Emory University Hospital Midtown	Atlanta	●	●	●	○	●	●
Fannin Regional Hospital*	Blue Ridge	●	Not Yet Rated	●	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated
Grady Memorial Hospital	Atlanta	●	○	○	●	●	●
Gwinnett Hospital System	Lawrenceville	○	●	○	●	●	●
Habersham Medical Center	Demorest	●	Not Yet Rated	●	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated
Hamilton Medical Center	Dalton	○	○	●	●	○	○
Henry Medical Center	Stockbridge	○	●	○	●	●	○
Murphy Medical Center	Murphy	○	Not Yet Rated	○	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated
Newton Medical Center	Covington	○	Not Yet Rated	○	Not Yet Rated	●	○
North Fulton Regional Hospital	Roswell	○	○	○	○	●	Not Yet Rated

North Georgia Medical Center*	Ellijay		Not Yet Rated		Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated
Northeast Georgia Medical Center	Gainesville						
Northridge Medical Center	Commerce		Not Yet Rated		Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated
Northside Hospital	Atlanta						
Northside Hospital-Cherokee	Canton						
Northside Hospital-Forsyth	Cumming						
Piedmont Fayette Hospital	Fayetteville						
Piedmont Hospital	Atlanta						
Piedmont Mountainside Hospital*	Jasper		Not Yet Rated				
Piedmont Newnan Hospital*	Newnan						
Rockdale Medical Center	Conyers						
Southern Regional Medical Center	Riverdale						
Spalding Regional Medical Center	Griffin						
St. Mary's Health Care System#	Athens						
Stephens County Hospital*	Toccoa		Not Yet Rated		Not Yet Rated		
Tanner Medical Center-Carrollton	Carrollton						
Tanner Medical Center-Villa Rica	Villa Rica		Not Yet Rated		Not Yet Rated		Not Yet Rated
Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center	Lavonia		Not Yet Rated		Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated
Union General Hospital	Blairsville		Not Yet Rated		Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated
WellStar Cobb Hospital	Austell						
WellStar Douglas Hospital*	Douglasville						
WellStar Kennestone Hospital	Marietta						
WellStar Paulding Hospital*	Dallas		Not Yet Rated		Not Yet Rated	Not Yet Rated	
West Georgia Health*	La Grange						

+ Although this hospital reported zero catheter-urinary tract infections [], due to low patient volume this result is not statistically better than national rates.

*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.

#Although this hospital reported zero MRSA and central-line infections [], due to low patient volume this result is not statistically better than national rates.