

Using Hospital Compare.

To use Hospital Compare, first start your computer's Web browser (for example, Internet Explorer or Netscape) and then enter www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov or www.medicare.gov (select *Compare Hospitals in Your Area*) in the address line.

When the Hospital Compare page opens, you see four tabs near the top of the screen: *Search*, *About*, *Data Details* and *Resources*. Click on each tab for the following information:

- **Search (default)** – allows you to find hospitals in a specific area.
- **About** – provides background information about Hospital Compare and how to search.
- **Data Details** – includes detailed information about the quality measures.
- **Resources** – provides additional helpful sources of information, including CMS publications, related Web sites and a glossary of terms used in Hospital Compare.



Searching for a Hospital

Step 1: With the *Search* tab highlighted, click on state, county, ZIP code or hospital name. Select the state or county from the available list, or type in the city, ZIP code or hospital name.

Note: For all search options except ZIP code, you will need to choose a state. After choosing a state or ZIP code, click on *Next Step* or <Enter> to go to Step 2.

Step 2: In the first sentence of this web page, you will see the number of hospitals meeting your search criteria. You may search either by acute care (general hospitals) or critical access (small, remotely located) hospitals. Basic information about the hospitals that meet your search criteria is displayed, including the hospital's name, telephone number, if they operate an emergency department and if they are accredited. You may select up to 10 hospitals within each group and click *Next Step* at the bottom of the page.

Note: You cannot select an acute care and critical access facility at the same time.

Step 3: Select Conditions. You must select one or more clinical conditions to proceed. You may click *Select All Conditions* at the top of the page or *Select All* at the bottom of the page to view information for all of the clinical conditions. To start over, click *Reset Checkboxes*. **Continued**

Step 4: Select *Quality Measures*. Within each clinical condition, quality measures are displayed.

You must select one or more quality measures to proceed. You have several options:

- Click *Select All* at the top or bottom of the page to view information for all of the quality measures.
- Click *Select All the Quality Measures* within a condition.
- Check the box by the individual measure you want to see. To start over, click *Reset Checkboxes*.

Quality Results Page

Quality Graphs: On this page, each measure is displayed in bar graph format with text describing why the measure is important. You can also see state and national averages.

To close or compress individual quality measures, click on the small box with the minus (-) sign to the left of the quality measure. To open the individual quality measure information, click on the small box with the plus (+) sign.

Quality Measure Tables: Allow for side-by-side comparisons of hospitals of each of the clinical conditions. Located below each bar graph is a button "Quality Measure Tables." Click on this button for the display of the quality measure tables.

For Further Assistance

To learn more about hospital quality of care, please call:



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