

Do U.S. News' Hospital Rankings Accurately Reflect Quality?

Written by Sabrina Rodak | May 08, 2013

U.S. News & World Report's ranking of academic medical centers for 2012 to 2013 may inaccurately reflect hospitals' quality of care, according to a Comparion Medical Analytics study.

U.S. News evaluates major academic medical centers on 12 specialties based on survival rates and patient safety indicators, and an additional four specialties based on the hospital's reputation by physicians in the same specialty, according to the news release.

Comparion rated *U.S. News's* honor roll of best academic medical centers using its CareChex composite quality scoring methodology, which takes into account process of care measures, outcome measures and patient satisfaction scores, according to the news release. The study showed a slightly negative correlation between *U.S. News's* ranking and Comparion's CareChex scores.

For example, The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore went from second on the *U.S. News* list to 14th on the CareChex list, and Cleveland Clinic moved from fourth to 16th, according to the news release. In contrast, Indianapolis-based Indiana University Health and Ann Arbor-based University of Michigan Health System moved from 16th and 17th on the *U.S. News* list to first and fourth on CareChex's list, respectively.