



Grady Memorial Hospital

80 Jesse Hill Jr Drive South East

Atlanta, GA 30303

[View location map](#)

(404) 616-4307

Report Created 02/26/2009

To help you make the best choice possible, HealthGrades has compiled information on this hospital in the following seven sections.

1. [About this Hospital](#)
2. [Overall Service Ratings](#)
3. [Patient Safety Ratings](#)
4. [Safe Practices by the Leapfrog Group](#)
5. [Procedure/Condition Ratings & Cost](#)
6. [Is this Hospital Right for You?](#)
7. [Medical Issue Glossary](#)

HealthGrades quality ratings are derived from the following data sources:

- Medicare inpatient data from the MedPAR database (purchased from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) for years 2005 through 2007.
- Inpatient data for appendectomy, bariatric surgery, maternity care and women's health provided by 17 states (AZ, CA, FL, IA, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NV, NY, OR, PA, TX, UT, VA, WA, and WI) for years 2004 through 2006.

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About this Hospital

Some general information about this hospital can help you choose between several alternatives for hospital care.

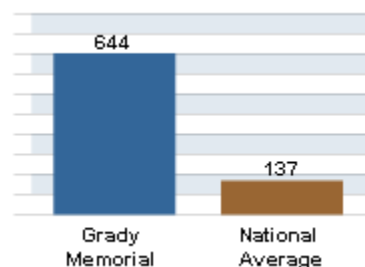
Hospital Size: **644**
(Number of Acute Care Beds)

Accredited By: **JCAHO***

Ownership: **Gov. - Hosp. Dist. Or Auth.**

* Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

Number of Acute Care Beds



Hospital Size (Number of Acute Care Beds)

The **size** of a hospital (number of acute care beds) may indicate a level of services available. For example, smaller rural hospitals may not offer a full spectrum of services compared to a larger urban hospital. You should check that the hospital can treat your particular condition.

Accreditation


An **accreditation** helps ensure that the hospital is meeting certain health and safety requirements. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) is the nationwide authority that surveys hospitals. Although accreditation is voluntary, most hospitals go through the process. If the hospital you are considering is not accredited, it is important to know why.

Ownership

Ownership tells you if the hospital operates as a non-profit hospital (usually under religious or other voluntary organizations) or for-profit or proprietary (commercial establishments owned by corporations or individuals).

Overall Service Ratings

Cardiac	●
Orthopedic	●
Pulmonary	★ ★ ★
Vascular	●
Gastrointestinal	★ ★ ★
Critical Care	★ ★ ★
Stroke	★ ★ ★
General Surgery	●



Review HealthGrades' quality ratings methodology

★★★★★	Best
★★★★	As Expected
★★★	Poor
●	Not Rated*

* Not rated means that the hospital treated fewer than 30 patients with that procedure or diagnosis and therefore is not rated.

An overall service rating is a combined rating of one or more medical conditions or procedures within a specialty area. A hospital had to meet these requirements to receive a rating in the service area. For example, to receive a rating in the Pulmonary service area, a hospital had to have star ratings in both chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and pneumonia.

The top-rated hospitals within each specialty area were selected to be HealthGrades' Specialty Excellence Award recipients. (See HealthGrades' [Specialty Excellence Award Methodology](#) document).

Patient Safety Ratings

Patient safety ratings reflect the quality of care at a hospital by measuring how well the hospital prevents potentially avoidable complications and adverse events following all surgeries and procedures performed at the hospital. HealthGrades uses Patient Safety Indicator software from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (see www.ahrq.gov) to: 1) **Count** the actual number of patient safety events; and 2) **Predict** the expected number of patient safety incidences that are likely to occur at a hospital based on such factors as the types of cases treated at the hospital.

Ratings for each of the 13 patient safety indicators are based on comparison of the actual number of events to the expected number for that hospital.

Better than expected **Fewer** patients were affected than expected.
Average **About the same** number of patients were affected as expected.
Worse than expected **More** patients were affected than expected.

Patient Safety Indicator	Worse	Average	Better
Prevention of death in procedures where mortality is usually very low	★		
Lack of pressure sores or bed sores acquired in the hospital	★		
Ability to diagnose and treat in time	★		
Absence of foreign body left in during procedure		★	
Avoidance of collapsed lung due to a procedure or surgery in or around the chest	★		
Lack of infections acquired at hospital		★	
Absence of hip fracture after surgery	★		
Avoidance of excessive bruising or bleeding as a consequence of a procedure or surgery		★	
Adequate organ function and electrolyte and fluid balance after surgery	★		
Avoidance of respiratory failure following surgery	★		
Lack of deep blood clots in the lungs or legs after surgery	★		
Avoidance of severe infection following surgery	★		
Lack of surgical wound site breakdown		★	

Safe Practices by the Leapfrog Group

Overall Safe Practices rating indicates the level of safety you can expect from a particular hospital. A higher Overall Safe Practices rating indicates that a hospital implements practices that can reduce preventable medical mistakes thereby improving quality health care, reducing the risk of harm to patients, and saving lives.

Hospitals can fall into five categories based on how they implement and report patient safety practices recommended by The Leapfrog Group – an association of more than 160 companies and organizations committed to improving health care.

Instead of a safe practices rating, a hospital could have a:

- **Not Applicable** if the hospital does not perform the procedure or treat the medical condition
- **Not Targeted** if the Leapfrog Group did not request the hospital to respond but the hospital participated in other sections of the survey

In addition, HealthGrades applies a methodology to produce the one-, three- and five-star Service Ratings based on the hospital's progress in implementing Overall Safe Practices.

Computerized Drug Orders



ICU Specialist Staffing

Overall Safe Practices



For more information visit www.leapfroggroup.org

Computerized Drug Orders

More than a million serious medication errors occur every year in U.S. hospitals. Studies show that a computerized prescription system can reduce serious medication mistakes by up to 86 percent. With an automated prescription system, physicians enter orders directly into a computer which automatically checks for potential mistakes or problems according to the patient's current information. For example, the computer determines if the new prescription will interact badly with another drug the patient is taking, or if the patient is known to be allergic to the new drug. Additionally the system reduces mistakes from misreading a doctor's handwriting.

- Fully Implemented
- Good Progress
- Good Early Stage Effort
- Did Not Yet Meet
- Did Not Disclose
- NA Not Applicable
- NT Not Targeted

Data provided by the Leapfrog Group. Each hospital voluntarily completes a survey to The Leapfrog Group.

ICU Specialist Staffing

Intensive care unit (ICU) specialist staffing refers to the need of qualified professionals to manage patient care in ICUs. Intensivists are physicians who are specially trained to care for critically ill patients in ICUs. Of the more than four million patients who are admitted to ICUs each year in the U.S., more than 500,000 die. Studies show that at least one in ten ICU patients who die every year would have an increased chance to live if intensivists were managing their care for at least eight hours per day. Because intensivists are in short supply, not all hospitals provide this level of care. If your doctor expects that you're likely to stay in an ICU during your hospitalization, then this staffing level is an important factor to consider when choosing a hospital.

Overall Safe Practices

Overall Safe Practices is a measure of the extent in which a hospital's operations contribute to the overall quality and safety of care. The Leapfrog Group endorses 30 practices that should be universally used to reduce the risk of harm to patients, reduce preventable medical mistakes, and save lives. Practices relate to:

- Creating a culture of safety
- Matching care needs to service capabilities
- Improving information transfer and communications
- Implementing specific care processes and safe medication use

Procedure/Condition Ratings & Cost

To customize your report, you had the option to select up to 20 procedures or medical conditions to receive ratings, average procedure charges, and average length of stay. Here are the results you requested.

What This Means to You

Number of Patients

Usually, the more experience the hospital has with a procedure, the better the results will usually be.

Hospital Price

The Hospital Price graph compares the amount the hospital bills Medicare for a procedure or condition (Hospital Charge), what Medicare has paid to the hospital for a procedure or condition (Medicare Paid), and an estimate of what other health plans have paid on average for the procedure or condition (Estimated Health Plan Paid).

Medicare provides healthcare coverage for over 43 million beneficiaries – those who are 65 years or older and those who otherwise qualify for benefits due to a disability. Because insurance

companies (including Medicare) negotiate a discount on behalf of their beneficiaries, the amount they reimburse hospitals is much lower (sometimes as much as half) than the "list prices" hospitals charge. In fact, Medicare – the largest health plan in the country – negotiates the largest discounts and typically pays the least amount for healthcare provider services. By law, a hospital must charge the same price (list price) to all patients but discounted rates vary between health plans.

Medicare Paid is based on the average paid to the hospital for this procedure billed over a one-year period. Estimated Health Plan Paid is a calculated estimate based on study data. Commercial health plans typically pay 27% more than Medicare and Medicaid.

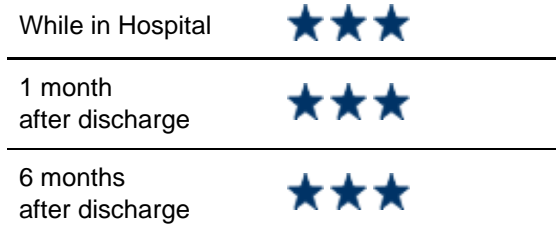
By understanding how much hospitals are typically paid for their services, you are in a better position to plan financially for your healthcare and to discuss lower payment amounts for non-insured services with the hospital.

Average Hospital Stay

A short length of stay (LOS) may mean the hospital discharges too quickly. On the other hand, a high LOS results in higher costs. Therefore, it's a good idea to find out why a hospital's LOS is outside the norm.

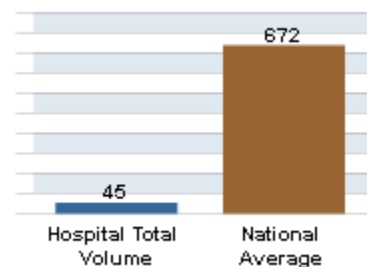
Coronary Interventional Procedures (Angioplasty/ Stent)

Survival

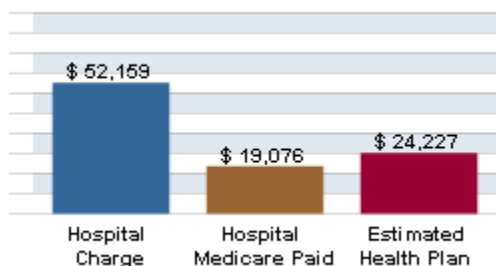


Number of Patients

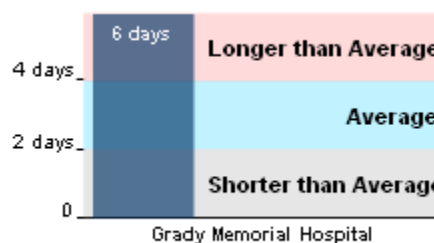
Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



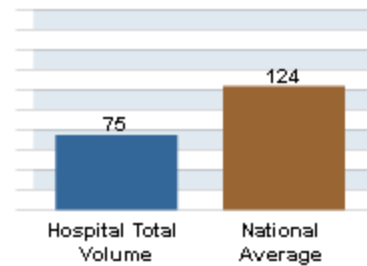
Craniotomy

Survival

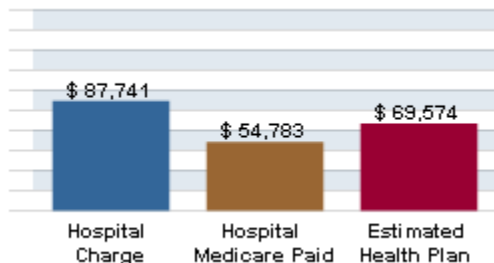


Number of Patients

Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



Diabetic Acidosis and Coma

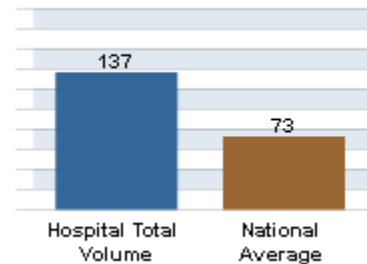
Survival

While in Hospital ★★ ★

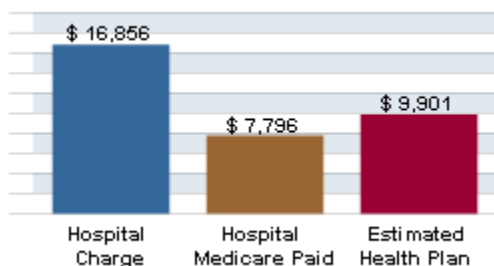
1 month after discharge ★★ ★

Number of Patients

Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



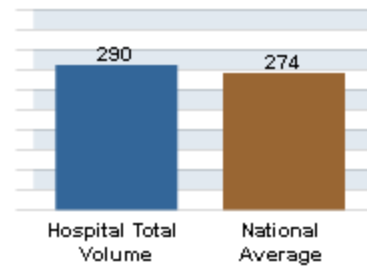
Heart Attack

Survival

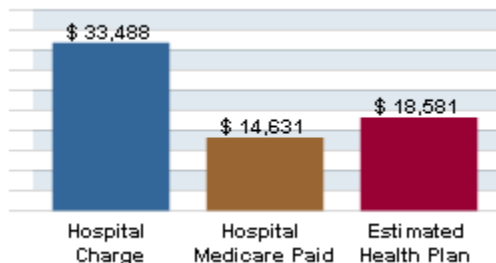
Number of Patients

Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007

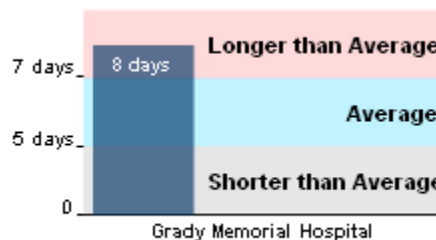
While in Hospital	★ ★ ★
1 month after discharge	★ ★ ★
6 months after discharge	★



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



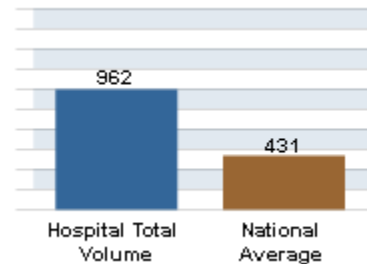
Heart Failure

Survival

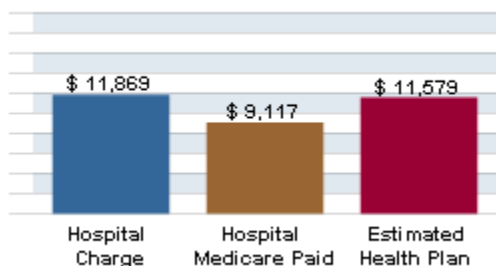
While in Hospital	★ ★ ★
6 months after discharge	★

Number of Patients

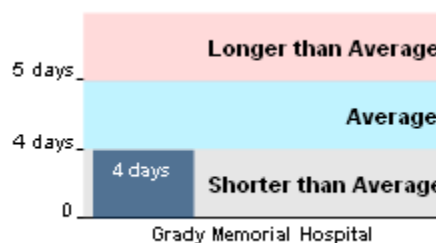
Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



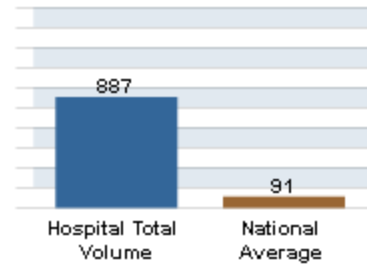
HIV

Survival

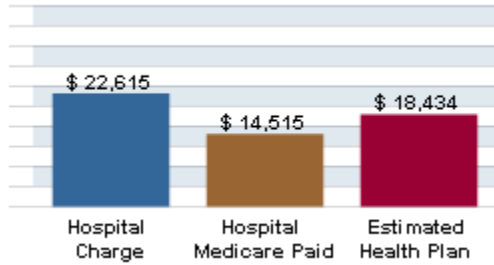
Number of Patients

Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007

While in Hospital



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



Infections

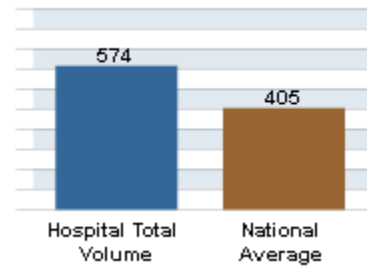
Survival

While in Hospital

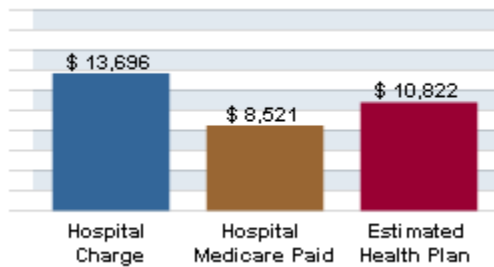


Number of Patients

Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



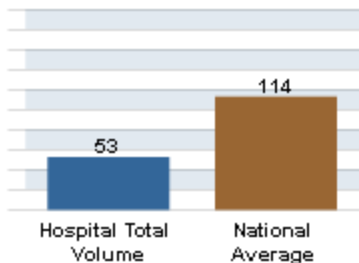
Mini strokes

Survival

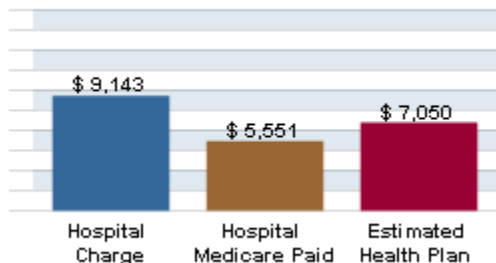
Number of Patients

Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007

While in Hospital



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



Multiple Injuries

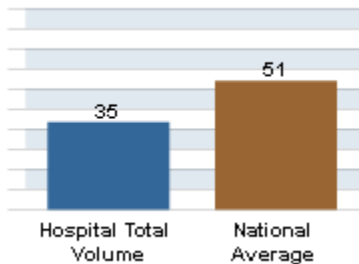
Survival

While in Hospital

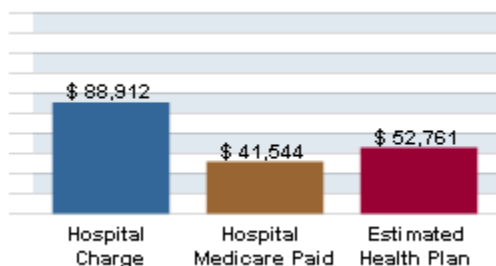


Number of Patients

Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



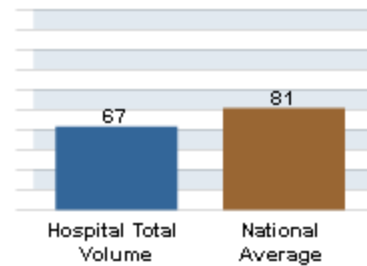
Parasitic Infection

Survival

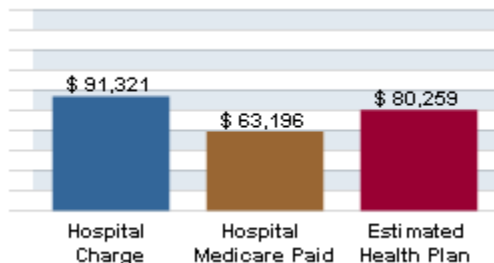
Number of Patients

Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007

While in Hospital



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



Pneumonia

Survival

While in Hospital



1 month after discharge

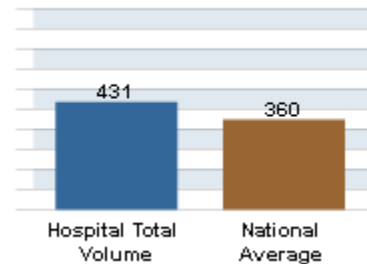


6 months after discharge

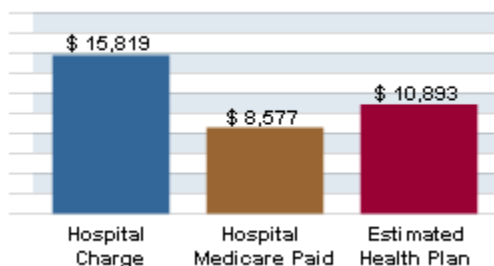


Number of Patients

Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



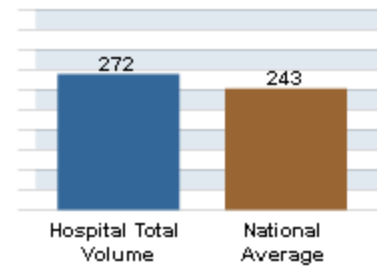
Sepsis

Survival

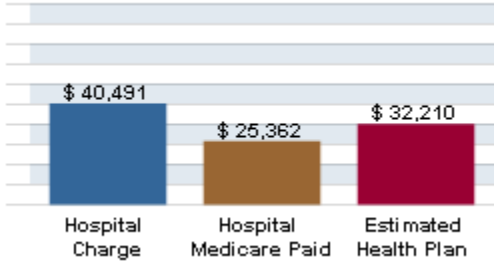
Number of Patients

Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007

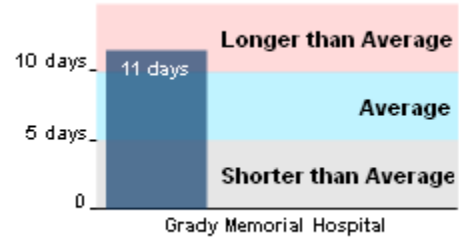
While in Hospital	★
1 month after discharge	★
6 months after discharge	★



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



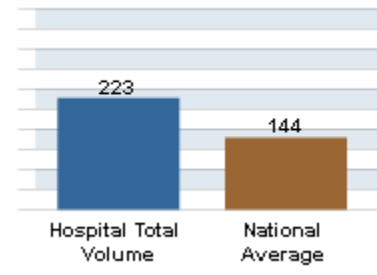
Severe Skin Infection

Survival

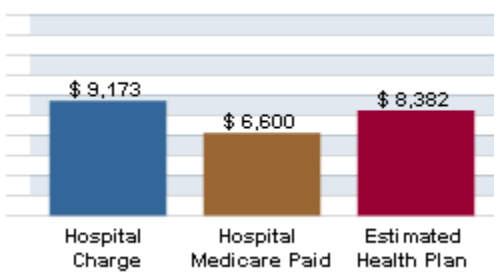
While in Hospital	★★★
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Number of Patients

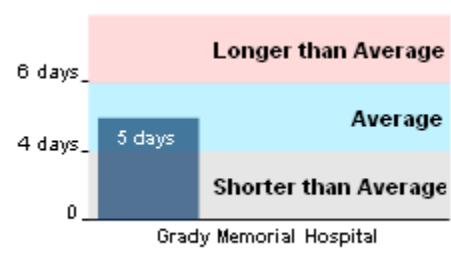
Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



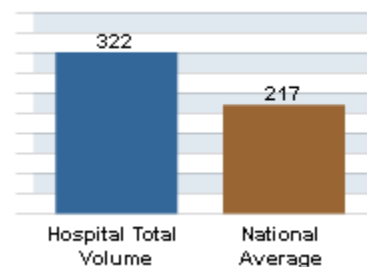
Stroke

Survival

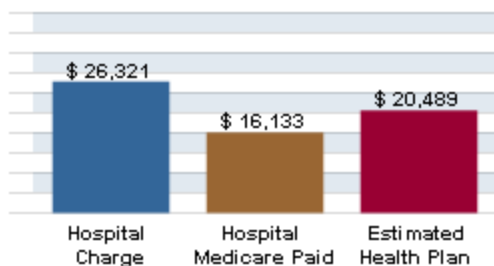
Number of Patients

Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007

While in Hospital	★ ★ ★
1 month after discharge	★ ★ ★
6 months after discharge	★



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



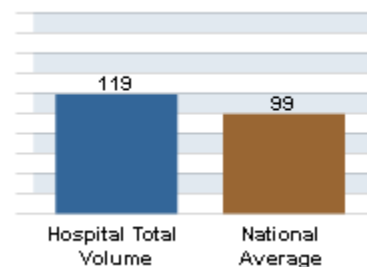
Trauma

Survival

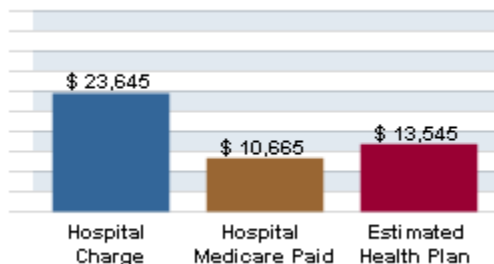
While in Hospital	★
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Number of Patients

Over the 3-Year Period from 2005 - 2007



Hospital Price



Average Hospital Stay



Is this Hospital Right for You?

1. **Is the hospital accredited?**

Yes

Accreditation helps ensure that the hospital is meeting certain health and safety requirements. If the hospital you are considering is not accredited, it is important to know

why.

2. What are the hospital's **HealthGrades Overall Service Ratings**?

Ratings that compare hospital performance are an important resource for healthcare consumers.

Cardiac	●
Orthopedic	●
Pulmonary	★ ★ ★
Vascular	●
Gastrointestinal	★ ★ ★
Critical Care	★ ★ ★
Stroke	★ ★ ★
General Surgery	●

3. What are the **outcome measurements** for the procedure you may need performed at the hospital? Outcome measurements include survival/recovery rating or avoiding complication rating depending on the procedure. Survival/recovery ratings are based upon mortality outcomes while avoiding complications are based upon complication outcomes. Review the procedure-level ratings in your HealthGrades Hospital Quality Report.

4. What are the **patient safety ratings** for this hospital? Review Patient Safety Ratings in your HealthGrades Hospital Quality Report.

5. Does the hospital use **patient safety surveys**? Yes No
 If so, will they allow you to see the results of those surveys? Yes No

Patient safety surveys can indicate the practices the hospital implements to reduce preventable medical mistakes thereby improving quality health care, reducing the risk of harm to patients, and saving lives.

6. Does the hospital implement **safe practices** that can reduce preventable medical mistakes?

Computerized Drug Orders	<input type="radio"/>
ICU Specialist Staffing	<input type="radio"/>
Overall Safe Practices	<input type="radio"/>

7. Does the hospital **accept your insurance**? Yes No

Insurance plans often provide more coverage for services received at an affiliated hospital. By choosing a hospital that is part of your health insurance plan, you are likely to pay less out-of-pocket costs.

8. How **often is the procedure** you need performed in the hospital? _____

In the case of specialized medical and surgical care for a complex problem, the more experience the hospital has with a procedure, the better the results will be.

9. Is your **physician affiliated with the hospital**? Yes No

Your doctor must be affiliated with the hospital you choose. This means your doctor has met the hospital's requirements and is allowed to treat patients in that facility.

10. Is your **physician board certified**, experienced in the **specialty** you need, or have **disciplinary actions**? How many years has your physician been practicing? For answers to these and other questions regarding your physician, visit www.healthgrades.com for a Physician Quality Report about your physician.
11. What is the **R.N.-to-patient ratio** at the hospital? _____ Nurses to _____ Patients
The number of nurses on staff in a hospital, in relation to the number of patients or other hospital staff, is often a measure of quality that directly affects patient care. One nurse can usually care for three to six patients, except in intensive care units where the ratio is more likely one R.N. for every one or two patients.
12. Is there an **infection control practitioner** on staff at the hospital? Yes No
About one in twenty American patients gets sick from their stay in the hospital. Hospital-acquired illnesses are a major concern, especially since one-third to one-half of acquired infections are preventable.
13. Does the hospital have an extensive **referral network**? Yes No
Find out what arrangements the hospital has with other facilities.

Call and Visit the Hospital

1. Is the **staff courteous** and **helpful**? Yes No
2. Is the hospital **clean**? Yes No
3. Do the waiting rooms and patient rooms look **comfortable**? Yes No
4. How are **patient complaints** handled by the hospital?
-
-

5. Is the hospital conveniently **located**? Yes No

Find Out More

- Ask your physician and other healthcare professionals which hospital they would choose and why.
- Ask friends and colleagues what hospital they would recommend and why.
- Find out the full range of **specialty departments** available in the hospital if complications were to occur related to the surgery or treatment you may need (for example, newborn intensive care unit, trauma center, etc.).
- Ask your physician to list the full range of **options for diagnosing and treating** your condition and compare this with other facilities.
- Carefully evaluate all **financial charges** between hospitals. Talk carefully with your benefits manager to review your policy, and speak with someone in the hospital benefits office to make sure you have all financial facts straight.

Medical Issue Glossary

Coronary Interventional Procedures (Angioplasty/ Stent)

A stent is a flexible coil of mesh that is inserted into a patient's coronary artery to keep that artery open so that blood can pass through it easily. A stent is placed as part of a balloon angioplasty procedure.

Balloon angioplasty with a stent is a

HIV

HIV stands for human immunodeficiency virus. It gradually destroys the immune system, (as in AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) which results in infection that the body cannot adequately fight. This category includes a variety of specific procedures and diagnoses for the treatment of HIV.

procedure for treating a coronary blood vessel, which is constricted (narrowed) or completely blocked. The procedure is used to increase or restore blood flow through the artery. During this procedure, a balloon is introduced into the constricted artery to widen it and the stent is left behind to keep the artery open. Constricted coronary arteries cannot supply the heart muscle with enough blood to deliver the required amount of oxygen. Lack of oxygen to the heart muscle may cause chest pain (angina) or heart tissue damage.

Balloon angioplasty with a stent is performed by inserting a hollow needle into the femoral artery. With the help of X-ray images, a guide wire is then pushed through the needle into the artery, where it is advanced to a point just past the narrowing of the artery to be treated. Once the guide wire is in place, a balloon-tipped catheter, with a stent resting on the deflated balloon, is threaded over the guide wire and pushed along the artery until it reaches the area of the artery to be treated. The balloon at the tip of the catheter is inflated in the narrowed part of the artery and the stent lodges in the artery wall and holds the vessel open. After the balloon is deflated and removed, the stent remains in place.

Craniotomy

A craniotomy is a surgical opening into the cranium. The cranium is the skeleton of the head, including the bones that enclose the brain, plus the bones of the face.

Diabetic Acidosis and Coma

Diabetes refers to any of several disorders where a lack of insulin leads to the uncontrolled metabolism of carbohydrates. Diabetic acidosis is a complication of diabetes caused by the buildup of by-products of fat metabolism, which occurs when glucose is not available as a fuel source for the body. When glucose is not available, body fat is broken down instead. The by-products of fat metabolism are ketones. When fat is metabolized, ketones build up in the blood and "spill" over into the urine. A condition called ketoacidosis (or acidosis) develops when the blood becomes more acidic than body tissues. Severe diabetic acidosis can result in decreased consciousness (or coma).

Heart Attack

Infections

An Infection is caused by the invasion of and multiplication by pathogenic microorganisms in body tissue. Depending on the effectiveness of the body's defensive mechanisms, infections may be temporary or persistent. These harmful microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, fungus) result in the alteration of normal organic functions. They may remain localized or gain access to the lymphatic or vascular system.

TIA (Transient Ischemic Attack)

A transient ischemic attack is a reversible condition sometimes referred to as a "mini-stroke" and is caused by temporary reduction of blood supply to an area of the brain, resulting in a sudden, brief decrease in brain function. (Typically, this lasts less than 24 hours, and frequently less than one hour).

Multiple Injuries

Multiple injuries are incidents of physical harm that occur simultaneously in several body regions. This category includes craniotomy, spine, hip, and major limb procedures for multiple significant trauma, head, chest, and lower limb diagnoses of multiple significant trauma, and other diagnoses of multiple significant trauma.

Parasitic Infection

A parasitic infection is contamination due to an organism invading the body and taking nourishment from it.

Pneumonia

Pneumonia is also called viral pneumonia, community-acquired pneumonia, or simple pneumonia. It is caused by one of several viruses including varicella (chickenpox), influenza, and adenovirus.

Pneumonia is not a single disease, but the name for several types of lung inflammation caused by infectious organisms. Pneumonia is the sixth most common cause of death in the U.S., primarily because it is a common complication of any serious illness. It is more common in males, during infancy and old age, and in those who have reduced immunity to infection. The symptoms, treatment, and outcome vary greatly, depending on the cause and on the general health of the patient.

Symptoms may include fever, headache,

Heart attack (also known as acute myocardial infarction or AMI) occurs when an area of heart muscle dies or is permanently damaged because of an inadequate supply of oxygen to that area. Most heart attacks are caused by a blood clot that blocks one of the coronary arteries (the blood vessels that bring blood and oxygen to the heart muscle).

The most frequently reported symptoms of heart attack are: shortness of breath, cough, lightheadedness (dizziness), fainting, nausea or vomiting, sweating, or anxiety. A heart attack is a medical emergency that requires hospitalization. The treatment goal is to stop the progression of the heart attack and reduce the demands on the heart so that it can heal. Oxygen, medications and fluids are usually given to treat a heart attack.

Heart Failure

Heart failure refers to a condition in which the heart does not pump efficiently, and consequently, it is unable to circulate enough blood to meet the needs of the body. Inefficient pumping also causes the blood returning to the heart to back up in the veins, which can cause an accumulation of fluid in the tissues and lungs. Because many of these symptoms of heart failure are caused by the congestion of the tissues and lungs with fluid, it is frequently called congestive heart failure.

The most common causes of heart failure in the U.S. are:

- **Coronary artery disease** – The narrowing of the arteries due to plaque buildup.
- **Cardiomyopathy** – A disease of the heart muscle that causes the heart to lose its pumping efficiency.
- **High blood pressure**
- **Disease of the heart valves**

The most frequently reported symptoms of heart failure are: fatigue with exertion, shortness of breath especially when lying down, and general fatigue. Heart failure can be treated in a variety of ways, depending upon the cause of the failure, including coronary bypass surgery, valve replacement surgery, or heart transplantation.

chills, weakness, chest pain, and a cough that produces sputum and occasionally blood. Potential complications include pleural effusion (fluid around the lung), empyema (pus in the pleural cavity), and, rarely, an abscess in the lung.

Sepsis

Sepsis is a toxic condition caused by the presence of microorganisms or their poisonous products in the bloodstream. Pulse and respiration usually rise, accompanied by headache, pains, malaise, loss of appetite, concentrated and diminished urine, constipation, restlessness, insomnia, and irritability.

Cellulitis

Cellulitis is an acute inflammation of the connective tissue of the skin, caused most frequently by infection with staphylococcus and streptococcus; however other microorganisms can be the cause.

Stroke

Stroke, also known as Cerebral Vascular Accident (CVA), is the result of a sudden reduction of blood flow to an area of the brain. When this happens, sensation, movement, abilities, or functions controlled by that area of the brain become impaired or lost. About 90 percent of strokes are ischemic infarctions (a sudden clot or buildup within the brain) and 10 percent are hemorrhagic (a rupture or breakage of a blood vessel within the brain).

For most strokes, symptoms develop within a few minutes to an hour and continue for more than 24 hours; the effects are permanent in some cases. The eventual amount of neurologic damage depends on age, state of health, and the size and location of the stroke. In the U.S., approximately 200 people per 100,000 population will experience a stroke. The incidence increases dramatically with age and is higher in men than in women. Multiple strokes are common.

Trauma

Trauma is any physical damage inflicted on the body by external force, such as violence or an accident. Injuries and wounds are traumas.

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