



**Grady Memorial Hospital**  
 80 Jesse Hill Jr Drive South East  
 Atlanta, GA 30303  
[View location map](#)  
 (404) 616-4307

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

1. [About this Hospital](#)
2. [Overall Service Ratings](#)
3. [Patient Safety Ratings](#)
4. [Safe Practices by the Leapfrog Group](#)
5. [Is this Hospital Right for You?](#)

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 maternity care and bariatric surgery provided by 19 states (AZ, CA, FL, IA, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NV, NY, OR, PA, RI, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, and WI) for years 2005 through 2007.
- Inpatient data for appendectomy provided by 17 states (AZ, CA, FL, IA, MA, MD, ME, NJ, NV, NY, OR, PA, RI, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, ) for years 2004 through 2006.

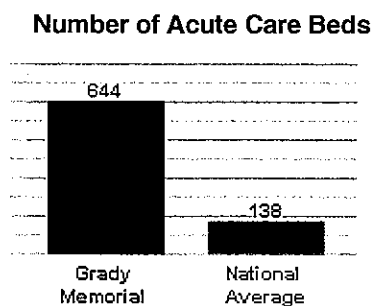
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## About this Hospital

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

<b>Hospital Size:</b> <small>(Number of Acute Care Beds)</small>	<b>644</b>
<b>Accredited By:</b>	<b>JCAHO*</b>
<b>Ownership:</b>	<b>Gov. - Hosp. Dist. Or Auth.</b>

\* Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations



### 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	●



**HEALTHGRADES®**  
LEADING AMERICA TO BETTER HEALTHCARE®  
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](http://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 12 patient safety indicators are based on a 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	★		
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		★	

Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for years 2005-2007.

### 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 as:

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

Hospitals voluntarily submit their data to The LeapFrog Group. HealthGrades then applies a methodology to the data producing ratings based on the hospital's progress in implementing safe practices.

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



For more information visit [www.leapfroggroup.org](http://www.leapfroggroup.org)

- Fully Meets Standards
- Substantial Progress
- Some Progress
- Did Not Meet Standards
- Declined to Respond
- NA Not Applicable
- NS Not Surveyed

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

### 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 88 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.

### 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 two million patients who are admitted to ICUs each year in the U.S., approximately 200,000 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

## 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**

<b>Pulmonary</b>	★ ★ ★
<b>Vascular</b>	●
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>	★ ★ ★
<b>Critical Care</b>	★ ★ ★
<b>Stroke</b>	★ ★ ★
<b>General Surgery</b>	●

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.

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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**

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- ICU Specialist Staffing**

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- Overall Safe Practices**

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](http://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.

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