Evaluating Doctors and Hospitals
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Sites with information about doctors

Physician Profile Search
www.idfpr.com/applications/professionprofile/default.aspx

www.healthgrades.com

www.medicare.gov/physiciancompare

www.castleconnolly.com
Sites with information about hospitals

Illinois Hospital Report Card
and Consumer Guide to Health Care

http://www.healthcarereportcard.illinois.gov/

http://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals
Ratings and rankings by specialty or condition

http://www.hospitalsafetyscore.org/

https://www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/search.html

www.healthgrades.com

http://qualitycheck.org/consumer/SearchQCR.aspx
Physician Compare (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services)
Government-sponsored

What we like:
- Allows you to find doctors who participate with Medicare.
- Comprehensive database of doctors with some background information on education.
- Links to performance information on the hospitals where they practice.
- Includes information on whether a doctor voluntarily reports information on their quality to Medicare (though not the actual quality results).

What we don't like:
- Limited information on quality of care for a few medical groups nationwide.
- No consumer satisfaction information.

HealthGrades
For Profit

What we like:
- Provides a range of information about doctors including patient satisfaction and malpractice history.
- Can search by health conditions and procedures.
- Tells you which doctors are associated with which hospital—and the quality of those hospitals.
- Has quite a bit of general health information.

What we don't like:
- Some of the information is provided by doctors so not verified.
- Hard to know how current the information is.
- HealthGrades gets paid to enhance the listing of some doctors.
- Ads throughout the site.

Illinois Hospital Report Card (IL Dept. of Public Health)
Government-sponsored

What we like:
- Very good site that provides broad range of information including quality of care, patient safety, patient satisfaction, charges and nurse staffing.
- Allows you both to compare hospitals and to see all of a hospital's information in one place.
- Uses icons or bar graphs to show which hospitals perform better.
- Provides other good consumer information.

What we don't like:
- Hospital median charges for major diagnoses (under services), is interesting because shows cost variation between hospitals, but is of limited use because of the role of insurance in determining what you pay.
Hospital Compare (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services)  
*Government-sponsored*

**What we like:**
- Medicare site contains a wide range of information including hospital death, readmission and infection rates.
- Also includes patient satisfaction results and how well hospitals do in providing timely and effective care for heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, child asthma patients and those undergoing surgery.
- Includes access to many other resources about Medicare and healthcare.

**What we don’t like:**
- Some information uses technical language so hard to understand.
- Makes it hard to determine which hospitals do well overall.
- Information not available for some measures.

America's Best Hospitals (US News & World Report)  
*For profit*

**What we like:**
- Well known site includes wide range of hospital rankings across specialties including cancer, orthopedics and urology.
- Provides national, state and metro area ratings.
- Measures hospitals based on their survival rates, patient safety, reputation, and other factors.
- Easy to use and navigate.

**What we don't like:**
- Only includes about half the hospitals in the country.
- Primarily for patients with complicated cases, not routine needs such as hernia repair or maternity care.
- Does not include any information on cost of care.

Hospital Safety Score (The Leapfrog Group)  
*Not for profit*

**What we like:**
- Provides an overall hospital score of A through F based on a number of measures addressing hospital safe practices, surgery, infections, complications and other measures.
- Includes good information about choosing your hospital and preparing for a hospital stay.
- Sponsored by national non-profit organization supported by employers.

**What we don't like:**
- While overall score is helpful, some of the underlying performance information is hard to understand.

Quality Check (The Joint Commission)  
*Not for profit*

**What we like:**
- Information from organization that oversees quality of hospitals and other health organizations nationwide.
- Provides wide range of information on heart care, surgical infection prevention and death rates.
- Includes hospital satisfaction information.
- Points out those hospitals that are top performers in certain clinical areas.

**What we don’t like:**
- Information, while complete, is hard to understand.
- Have to call to get information about hospital complaints.
- Many areas of hospital care aren't measured.