

METHODOLOGY

# America's Best Cancer Hospitals 2024



# Methodology – America’s Best Cancer Hospitals 2024

## Summary of the project

- Cancer is one of the main causes of mortality in the U.S. and requires intensive treatment <sup>(1)</sup>. Thus, seeking the best possible care, the choice of a cancer hospital is crucial in the treatment process<sup>(2)</sup>.
- To provide patients and family members with a comprehensive resource for informed decision making, Statista and Newsweek have partnered once again to award the leading cancer hospitals in the U.S.
- The **America’s Best Cancer Hospitals 2024** ranking awards the 200 leading hospitals in the field of **oncology** in the U.S., as well as highlighting the notable treatments.
- The underlying data analysis is based on four **data sources**:
  1. **Nationwide online survey**: Health care professionals and hospital managers with knowledge about oncology e.g., oncologists, hematologists, and oncology nurses were asked to recommend leading cancer hospitals in the U.S. The survey was also promoted on newsweek.com.
  2. **Hospital quality metrics**: Hospital quality metrics with a focus on indicators relevant to oncology care were considered.
  3. **Results from patient experience surveys**
  4. **Statista PROMs implementation survey**
- Hospitals with a 1-star rating from CMS were not eligible for the ranking.

# New features and changes in the 2024 edition



- The following list provides a brief overview of all **changes in this year's edition** compared to the *America's Best Cancer Hospitals 2023* ranking:
  - **Increased hospital quality metrics data weighting:** This year the weighting of the hospital **quality metrics** pillar was **increased** within the scoring model to reflect the emphasis on the medical key performance indicators.
  - **Update of Covid eligibility criteria:** Hospitals no longer need to meet a threshold of Covid vaccination to be eligible for the ranking. Additionally, the **weight of vaccination rates** (influenza and covid) were decreased within the quality metrics pillar of the scoring model.
  - **New hospital quality metrics data source: AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals Database 2022.** One goal of this project is to **increase** the comprehensiveness of the ranking with more **hospital data**. The AHA Annual Survey Hospital Database contains data provided by more than 6,200 hospitals and 400 health care system and features over 1,300 hospital data points and is therefore a suitable source for the ranking.
  - **Changed rated areas of quality to be more specific to cancer care:** Quality outcome and process dimensions were adjusted to include the following areas of care: Outpatient and inpatient palliative care, social work program / supportive care services, psycho-oncological / psychosocial support, multidisciplinary care teams, cancer rehabilitation programs, patient education and counseling, clinical trials and research.
  - **Statista PROMs Implementation survey:** Implementation of the voluntary PROMs implementation survey to determine the status quo of PROMs implementation, audits and reporting of the data, and whether the PROMs data is used to optimize care process and support therapeutic decisions in real-time.

# Four data sources were evaluated to identify leading cancer hospitals

Ranking process and scoring model

**1 Hospital recommendations from peers**  
Online survey of thousands of health care professionals and hospitals managers in the U.S. with knowledge about oncology care



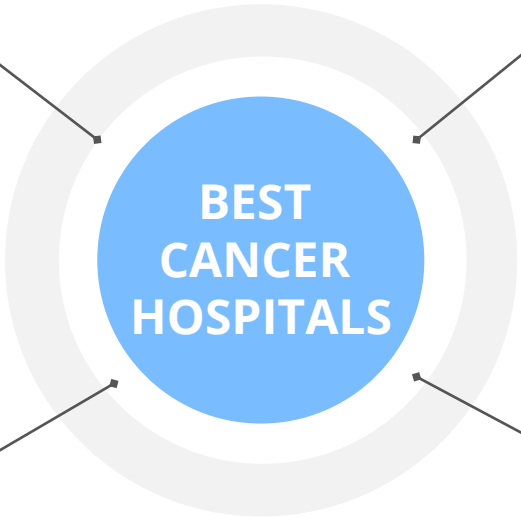
**2 Hospital quality metrics**  
Data on: Infection prevention, vaccination rates, timely and effective care, readmissions, accreditations and certifications relevant to the field



**4 PROMs implementation**  
Statista online survey on implementation and use of PROMs in hospitals (optional)

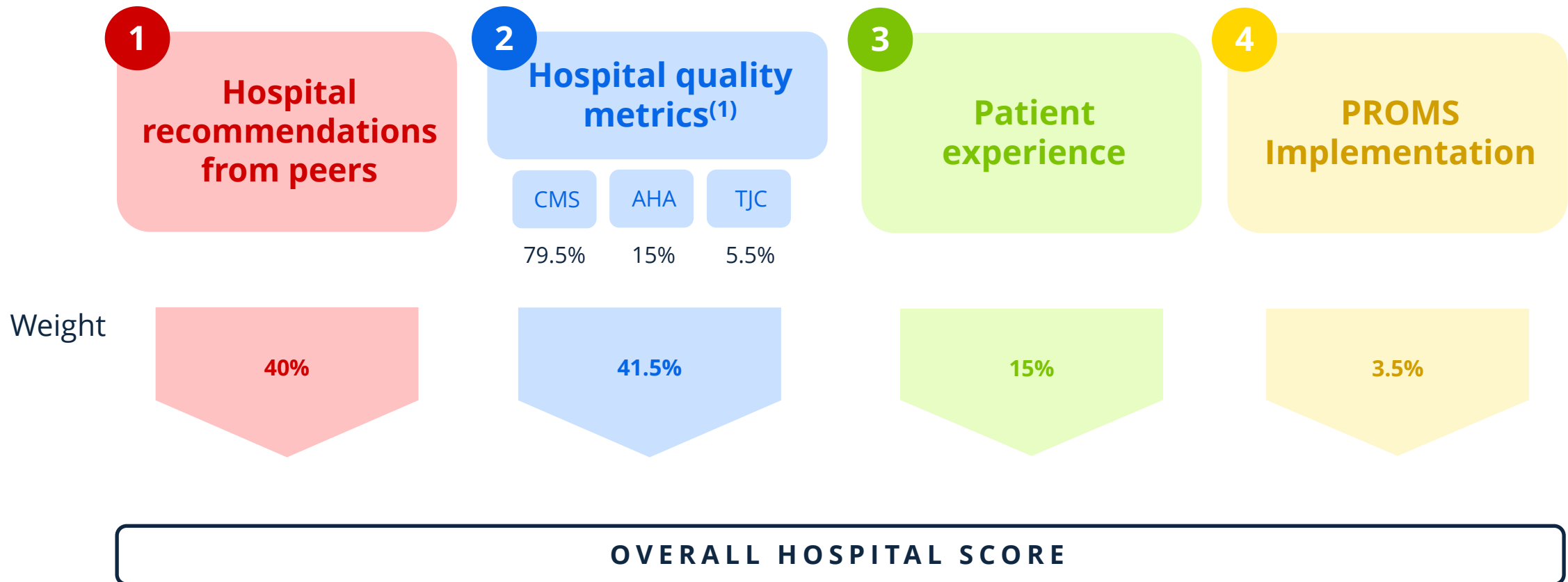


**3 Patient experience**  
Survey of patient experience during hospitalization



# A score was calculated for each hospital

Scoring model

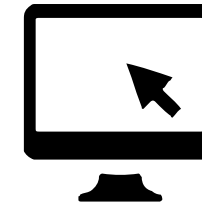
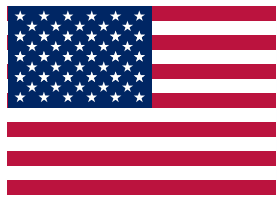


5 | Notes: (1) Hospitals need to have a least four measures in order to receive a hospital quality metrics score

# Medical experts with knowledge about oncology care were invited to the survey

From April to May 2024, Statista invited thousands of health care professionals with knowledge about cancer hospitals to an online survey

## 1 Hospital recommendations from peers



**Nationwide online survey** among health care professionals with knowledge about oncology and hospital managers. Participants were invited via e-mail.

Participants were asked to **recommend cancer hospitals** and to rate them on a scale of 1-10 in the areas of: Social work program / supportive care services, psycho-oncological / psychosocial support, outpatient and inpatient palliative care, multidisciplinary care teams, cancer rehabilitation programs, patient education and counseling, clinical trials and research. Recommendations for own employer / hospital were not allowed.

The assessments and recommendations were used to determine the **reputation score**. Additionally, participants could recommend the hospital for **notable treatments**:

- Prostate cancer
- Lung cancer
- Cervical cancer
- Breast cancer
- Colon & rectal cancer
- Leukemia

**SCORE FOR REPUTATION**

# Publicly available data on cancer hospitals was analyzed

Methodology: Hospital quality metrics – **Part 1**

## 2 Hospital quality metrics

- Hospital quality metrics relevant to oncology care from a variety of public sources were collected<sup>(1,2,3)</sup>. Hospitals with a 1-star rating from CMS were not eligible for the ranking.
- **Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** data was available for:
  - Timely and effective care (e.g. colonoscopy and sepsis care)
  - Infection Prevention and staff vaccination rates (e.g. COVID-19 & influenza)
  - Imaging (e.g. breast cancer screening recall rates)
  - Readmissions (e.g. unplanned readmissions for cancer patients)<sup>(4)</sup>
  - Patient Satisfaction
- **The Joint Commission (TJC)** data was available for:
  - Hospital Accreditation
  - Advanced Palliative Care Certification
- **FACT (Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy)** data was available for:
  - Hospitals offering high-levels of stem cell transplant

### SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS

7 Sources: (1) Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Data (<https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/>); reporting period: 2022-2023

(2) The Joint Commission (TJC): <https://www.jointcommission.org/what-we-offer/>

(3) FACT (Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy): <https://accredited.factglobal.org/>

Note: (4) The metrics taken into consideration regarding Timely & Effective Care, as well as Infections, and HCAHPS patient surveys were calculated at the general hospital level unless data from the PPS Exempt Cancer Hospitals program was available. As the PCH\_ONCOLOGY\_CARE\_MEASURES\_HOSPITAL dataset was retired after the October 2023 release, its metrics were not included for evaluation in this edition.

# Publicly available data on cancer hospitals was analyzed

Methodology: Hospital quality metrics – **Part 2**

2



## Hospital quality metrics

- The **AHA Annual Survey of Hospitals Database** has been included in the scoring model. The database contains data provided by more than 6,200 hospitals and 400 health care systems and features over 1,300 hospital data points<sup>(1)</sup>. For America's Best Cancer Hospitals, structural and organizational data of hospital facilities was used to be included in the hospital quality metrics score.
- The following indicator groups of the AHA **Annual Survey of Hospitals Database 2022**<sup>(2)</sup> were used as part of the quality metrics score<sup>(3,4)</sup>:

### General indicators

- Health research & screening
- Workforce strategic planning
- Technological equipment

### Oncology specific indicators

- Oncology services
- Breast cancer screening
- Chemotherapy
- Pain management
- Oncology-specific technological equipment

### Palliative specific indicators

- Hospice program
- Palliative care program
- inpatient palliative care unit

### Health equity

- Health equity goals
- DEI disaggregated data
- Health equity strategic plan

## SCORE FOR HOSPITAL QUALITY METRICS



# Publicly available patient experience data on cancer hospitals was analyzed

Methodology: Patient experience data

3



## Patient experience

- Publicly available data from hospital patient surveys was used to analyze patient experience<sup>(1)</sup>
- Survey topics associated to patient care:
  - Cleanliness of the hospital
  - Communication of the nurses/doctors
  - Care transition
  - Communication about medicines
  - Discharge information
  - Quietness
  - Staff responsiveness

**SCORE FOR PATIENT EXPERIENCE**

# The optional Statista PROMs implementation survey collects data directly from hospitals

Methodology: Statista PROMs implementation survey

## 4 Statista PROMs implementation survey

- Since 2023, a **PROMs implementation score** has been included in the scoring model of the World's Best Hospitals project.
- **Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs)** are defined as standardized, validated questionnaires completed by patients to measure their perception of their functional well-being and quality of life.
- **Survey cycle:** In fall/winter of 2023, Newsweek and Statista conducted the **voluntary PROMs implementation survey** to determine the status quo of PROMs implementation, audits and reporting of the data, and whether the PROMs data is used to optimize care process and support therapeutic decisions in real-time.
- This year, Statista has partnered with the **International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM, [www.ichom.org](http://www.ichom.org))** as a knowledge partner. ICHOM is the world's leading non-profit organization dedicated to development of standardized measurement of patient-important outcomes (including PROMs) as a basis for driving value-based health care. ICHOM is contributing to the future development of the PROMs implementation survey, in a manner that can drive not only measurement but use of the data from PROMs (and other patient-important outcomes) to advance value based healthcare.
- A **grading system** for the different questions was built to determine a **PROMs implementation score** for each participating hospital. Only hospitals which achieved a minimum of 50% (of the maximum 100% score) were eligible to be graded and received a maximum of up to 3.5% towards the total score.
- Future survey cycles will be announced on [r.statista.com](http://r.statista.com), [newsweek.com](http://newsweek.com) and via e-mail to registered participants. Registrations can be submitted to: [hospitals@statista.com](mailto:hospitals@statista.com).

SCORE FOR PROMS IMPLEMENTATION

As a result, the 200 best cancer hospitals in the U.S. were awarded

Rank	Hospital	City	State	Notable Treatment
1	MD Anderson Cancer Center	Houston	TX	Lung cancer, Colon & rectal cancer, Leukemia, Prostate cancer, Breast cancer, Cervical cancer
2	Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	New York	NY	Lung cancer, Colon & Rectal cancer, Leukemia, Prostate cancer, Breast cancer, Cervical cancer
3	Mayo Clinic - Rochester	Rochester	MN	Lung cancer, Colon & rectal cancer, Leukemia, Prostate cancer, Breast cancer, Cervical cancer
4	The Johns Hopkins Hospital	Baltimore	MD	Lung cancer, Colon & Rectal cancer, Leukemia, Prostate cancer, Breast cancer
5	Cleveland Clinic	Cleveland	OH	Lung cancer, Colon & Rectal cancer, Leukemia, Prostate cancer, Breast cancer

[...]

200 LEADING CANCER HOSPITALS WERE AWARDED

# World's Best Hospitals partner network

Overview of involved parties

**Newsweek**

## About Newsweek

Newsweek is a premier news magazine and website that has been bringing high-quality journalism to readers around the globe for over 80 years.

Newsweek provides the latest news, in-depth analysis and ideas about international issues, technology, business, culture and politics. In addition to its online and mobile presence, Newsweek publishes weekly English print editions in the United States, Europe/Middle East/Africa and Asia as well as editions in Japanese, Korean, Polish, Serbian and Spanish.

[newsweek.com](https://www.newsweek.com)

**statista** 

## About Statista R

Statista R is a world leader in the creation of company, brand, and product rankings and top lists, based on comprehensive market research and data analysis: Statista R recognizes the best. With a team of over 100 expert analysts and in cooperation with more than 40 high profile media brands across all continents, Statista R creates transparency for consumers and business decision makers and helps companies build trust and recognition across a plethora of industries and product categories. Visit [r.statista.com](https://www.r.statista.com) for further information about Statista R and our rankings.

Statista R is a division of Statista. The leading data and business intelligence portal provides an extensive collection of statistics, reports, and insights on over 80,000 topics from 22,500 sources in 170 industries. Find out more at [statista.com](https://www.statista.com).

**ICHOM**

## About ICHOM

The International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement (ICHOM, [www.ichom.org](https://www.ichom.org)) is the leading non-profit dedicated to transforming healthcare by focusing on what truly matters to patients. They accomplish this by empowering patient and clinical leaders to standardize important clinical, quality of life, function and experience results for health care, and enabling transparent large-scale use to achieve patient-centric health system transformation. ICHOM's standardized 'sets' of patient-centred outcomes measures help all actors in healthcare design, deliver and evaluate care based on outcomes that matter to patients. To date, ICHOM has developed 45 outcome measure sets for conditions. The sets are available in IT-ready interoperable formats and have been implemented in 500+ care settings in 42+ countries.

**statista** 

# Disclaimer

The rankings are comprised exclusively of hospitals that are eligible regarding the scope described in this document. The ranking is the result of an elaborate process which, due to the interval of data-collection and analysis, is a reflection of the last 12 months. Furthermore, events preceding or following the period June 19, 2023 – June 19, 2024, and/or pertaining to individual persons affiliated/associated to the facilities were not included in the metrics. As such, the results of this ranking should not be used as the sole source of information for future deliberations.

The information provided in this ranking should be considered in conjunction with other available information about hospitals or, if possible, accompanied by a visit to a facility. The quality of hospitals that are not included in the rankings is not disputed.

# Appendix

## Specific 2022 AHA Annual Survey indicators used

1. Total hospital beds (calculated)\*
2. Health research – hospital
3. Health screenings - hospital
4. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - conduct needs assessment
5. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - talent development plan
6. Incorporating workforce as part of strategic planning - recruitment & retention planning
7. Accountable for meeting health equity goals – CEO
8. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - designated senior executive
9. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - committee or task force
10. Accountable for meeting health equity goals - division/department leaders
11. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - patient outcomes
12. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions – training
13. DEI disaggregated data to inform decisions - professional development
14. Health equity strategic planning - equitable and inclusive organizational policies
15. Health equity strategic planning - systematic and shared accountability for health equity
17. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system leadership
18. Health equity strategic planning - diverse representation in hospital and health care system governance
19. Breast cancer screening/mammograms – hospital
20. Chemotherapy – hospital
21. Hospice program – hospital
22. Oncology services – hospital
23. Pain management program – hospital
24. Palliative care program – hospital
25. Inpatient palliative care unit – hospital
26. Full-field digital mammography (FFDM) – hospital
27. Image-guided radiation therapy - hospital
28. Intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT) - hospital
29. Shaped beam radiation system – hospital
30. Stereotactic radiosurgery – hospital
31. Bone marrow transplant - hospital