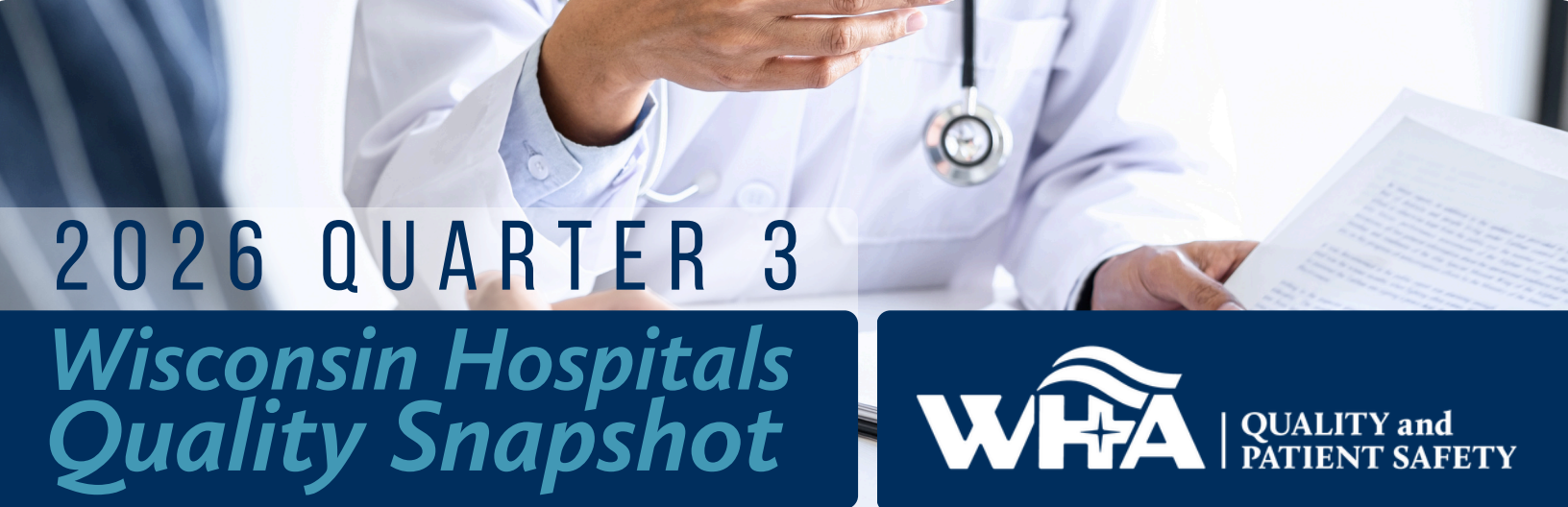




2026 QUARTER 3

Wisconsin Hospitals Quality Snapshot



2026 Quarter 3 Wisconsin Hospitals Quality Snapshot



This snapshot showcases important metrics and achievements that reflect the commitment by Wisconsin hospitals and providers to deliver high quality health care. Additionally, the snapshot offers an overview of how Wisconsin compares nationally and where it excels in promoting health and safety across the state's health care facilities.



Wisconsin Hospitals Lead the Nation in Quality Care

Wisconsin has

more five-star hospitals

than any other state.

Wisconsin hospitals lead the nation in five-star patient experience ratings, according to Becker's Hospital Review. ¹

- 22 Wisconsin hospitals earned five-star ratings for overall patient experience, tying Texas - a state with more than five times Wisconsin's population - for the most five-star hospitals in the country.

Forty-Four Wisconsin hospitals earn five-star ratings for nurse communication, the most of any state in the country. ²

- CMS shares 10 Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) star ratings based on publicly reported measures. These ratings are based on data collected between July 2024 and June 2025.

Wisconsin Ranked First in Nation of States with Cleanest Hospitals. ³

- In August, CMS survey data shows 30 Wisconsin hospitals earned 5-star cleanliness ratings, the most in the nation.

Footnotes

1. [Wisconsin Hospitals Lead the Nation in Five-Star Patient Experience Ratings](#)

2. [Wisconsin Hospitals Lead the Nation in Patient Ratings for Nurse Communication](#)

3. [381 cleanest hospitals](#)

2026 QUARTER 3

Quality Snapshot



**Wisconsin
Hospitals
are Committed
to Continuous
Quality
Improvement**

*through
education and
collaboration*

Caring for Wisconsin's Caregivers

Nearly 100 Wisconsin health care leaders gathered September 10 for the inaugural Caring for Wisconsin's Caregivers: 2026 WHA Healthcare Workforce Well-Being Summit to advance strategies that support Wisconsin's health care workforce. The event marked the launch of Phase 2 of Wisconsin's statewide health care workforce well-being initiative and highlighted the importance of caregiver well-being as a cornerstone of quality patient care and organizational success.

The summit celebrated Wisconsin becoming the third state to launch a statewide health care workforce well-being initiative in partnership with the Dr. Lorna Breen Foundation and the first to implement The Breen Scale™ statewide. Participating organizations can use the tool to assess workforce well-being maturity and access resources tailored to their needs.

Wisconsin hospitals and health systems that have earned designation as Wellbeing First Champions™ through the Dr. Lorna Breen Foundation were also recognized.



CheckPoint

CheckPoint provides transparent information on hospital quality, safety and patient care across Wisconsin. It helps patients, families and health care leaders compare performance and make informed decisions using credible, standardized data.

CHECK POINT | Wisconsin Hospitals' Quality and Safety Information

INFECTIONS

- Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections reduced by 26%
- Surgical Site Infection due to Abdominal Hysterectomy reduced by 48%
- Surgical Site Infection due to Colon Surgery reduced by 10%
- Clostridioides difficile Infections reduced by 20%

PATIENT SAFETY

- Sepsis-1 reduced by 3%
- Pneumothorax reduced by 18%
- Perioperative Hemorrhage reduced by 37%
- In Hospital Fall Associated Fractures reduced by 29%
- Healthcare Personnel Influenza Immunization improved by 1%

BIRTH

- Newborn Screening Card Transit Time improved by 1%
- Cesarean Births reduced by 1%

MORTALITY CONDITIONS & PROCEDURES

- Acute Stroke reduced by 10%
- Hip Fracture reduced by 24%
- Pneumonia reduced by 6%
- Heart Failure reduced by 2%
- Heart Attack reduced by 2%
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease reduced by 2%
- Percutaneous Coronary Intervention reduced by 2.5%

PATIENT EXPERIENCE

- Patient Rating Definitely Recommend Hospital improved by 1%
- Patient Rating Staff Always Explained Medications improved by 1.5%
- Patient Rating Room Always Clean improved by 1%



CheckPoint has 46 measures!

Scan the QR code
to the right or visit
checkpoint.wha.org



NOTE: The percentage improvements shown in each category above reflect improvement over the most recent 12 months of publicly reported data.

2026 QUARTER 3

Quality Snapshot



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Opioid and Substance Use Educational & Clinical Resources

As the final year of the five-year Rural Health & Substance Use Clinical Support (RHeSUS) Program continues, efforts remain focused on advancing substance use disorder (SUD) education and collaboration across Wisconsin. Since 2022, RHeSUS has hosted 14 Substance Use Disorders Management Boot Camps and engaged more than 450 health care professionals, strengthening the delivery of evidence-based care for those affected by SUDs.

The RHeSUS Lunch & Learn webinar series concluded in September, while broader RHeSUS activities continue. Current efforts include collaboration with post-acute and long-term care partners to address barriers to care transitions for patients with SUD and improve access to appropriate services. Program activities will continue with a free, two-day Substance Use Disorders Management Boot Camp on October 15-16 in De Pere, providing practical, case-based training to strengthen SUD recognition, treatment, and management in general medical settings.

This program is possible through a partnership with the Wisconsin Hospital Association. Funding for the Wisconsin Rural Health and Substance Use Clinical Support Program was provided by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health through the Wisconsin Partnership Program.



Quality Residency

The 2026-2027 Wisconsin Quality Residency program kicked off September 9. This 10-month program is a combination of in-person and virtual sessions and covers many quality-related topics, including regulatory requirements, risk management, data reporting and quality improvement methods and is designed for emerging health care quality leaders with limited experience in quality improvement and patient safety. These new quality residents are from seven Wisconsin hospitals/health systems.



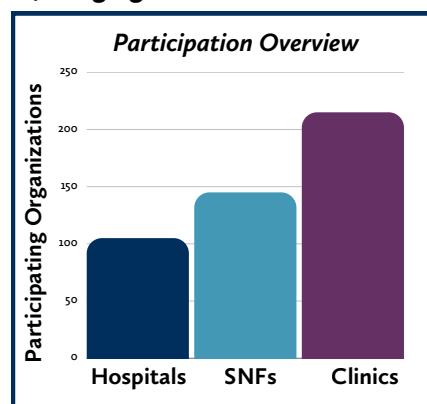
Sponsored by the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health (WORH), the program is a collaboration between the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) and the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (RWHC).

The Quality Residency Program is aligned with the nationally recognized competency domains established by the National Association for Healthcare Quality (NAHQ) for the Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality (CPHQ) credential.

Wisconsin CMS 13th Statement of Work (13SOW) Engagement

The Superior Health Quality Alliance (Superior Health) continues to serve as a trusted quality improvement partner across Wisconsin through the CMS 13th Statement of Work (13SOW). With 465 participating organizations statewide, the CMS 13SOW work supported by Superior Health creates a broad network of health care partners dedicated to improving safety, quality, equity and patient outcomes throughout Wisconsin. The breakdown of organizations is:

- 105 Hospitals
- 145 Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)
- 215 Clinics



2026 QUARTER 3

Quality Snapshot



QUALITY and
PATIENT SAFETY



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Scan the QR
code for more
quality
improvement
initiatives!

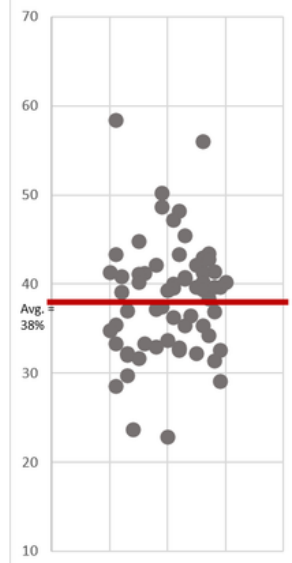
Wisconsin Dental Pain Protocol

The Wisconsin Dental Pain Protocol (WDPP) continued to build upon its prior achievements using data-driven decision-making. Using a combination of site-provided referral data, hospital data and WHA claims data, existing sites revisited their processes and outcomes using process flow diagrams that included quantitative results which generated renewed interest in WDPP refresher training for two health systems.

Through the WHA claims data for non-traumatic dental pain, the WDPP team was able to present information on the access issues faced by those with non-traumatic dental pain (NTDP) to multiple audiences. This resulted in commitments to implement the WDPP by FQHC and tribal dental clinics across Western, Northern and Southeastern Wisconsin.

Finally, our use of qualitative information from Community of Practice meetings and site reports has furthered the WDPP team's commitment to supporting new and existing health systems and partners. For additional information, please visit the [WDPP website](#).

The percent of NTDP ED visits with Medicaid ranges from 22% to 58% in Wisconsin counties.



Wisconsin Office of Rural Health - Swing Bed Optimization Program

The Swing Bed Optimization Program recently concluded another successful cohort, with four Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) completing the program in August. Supported through FLEX grant funding from the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health (WORH), the initiative is designed to help CAHs strengthen swing bed performance and sustainability through a focus on high-quality care, positive patient outcomes, regulatory compliance and swing bed utilization. Since late 2024, 11 Wisconsin CAHs have participated in the program. This most recent cohort benefited from three educational sessions focused on Regulatory Compliance, Eligibility Criteria and Optimization Strategies, and Marketing and Promotion, along with technical assistance and individualized support.

A key highlight of the program was the strong peer learning and engagement opportunities. Two peer best practice sharing sessions allowed experienced CAHs to provide mentorship, practical strategies and real-world insights to participants seeking to enhance or expand their swing bed services.

One peer-sharing hospital reported a 64% increase in the number of swing bed patients and a 24% increase in average swing bed length of stay since participating in the Swing Bed Optimization Program in 2025, demonstrating the program's potential impact on hospital performance and patient access to post-acute care services.



To further support Wisconsin hospitals, WHA also launched a new [Swing Bed Optimization Program webpage](#) within the [WHA - Health Care Quality Resource Center](#). The site serves as a centralized hub for educational resources, practical tools, and proven strategies to help hospitals evaluate, strengthen and grow their swing bed programs while improving access to post-acute care services, enhancing patient experience, and supporting organizational sustainability.