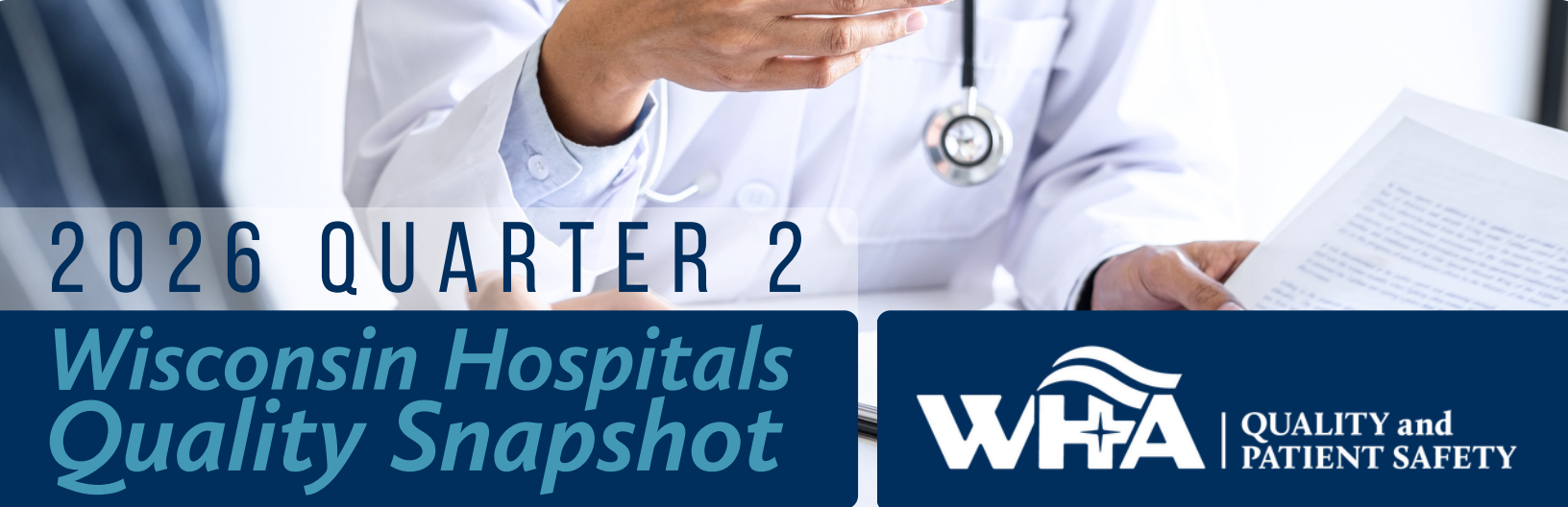




2026 QUARTER 2

Wisconsin Hospitals Quality Snapshot



2026 Quarter 2 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

According to the latest CMS Overall Hospital Star Ratings, Wisconsin hospitals rank 4th in the nation overall, showcasing strong performance. ¹

- Wisconsin ranks first in the country when focusing on states with more than 50 hospitals.
- 64% of WI hospitals earned a 4- or 5-star rating, compared to about 42% nationally. This places Wisconsin fourth in the nation overall.

Healthgrades recognizes 28 Wisconsin hospitals with the Outstanding Patient Experience Award. ²

- Only hospitals in the top 15% of those surveyed were recognized.

Eight Wisconsin hospitals have earned the 2026 Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals Rankings by Chartis. ³

- From this top 100 group, Wisconsin stood out prominently, with two hospitals earning Top 20 Critical Access Hospitals distinction.

Increasing from 64% in 2021 to 71% in 2025, SEP-01 Sepsis Bundle compliance has improved over the last five years. ⁴

- Additionally, Wisconsin hospitals have maintained top 10 national performance during this timeframe.

Footnotes

1. [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\), Five-Star Quality Rating System](#)

2. [Healthgrades Outstanding Patient Experience Award](#)

3. [Chartis 2026 Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals](#)

4. [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\), Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting \(IQR\) Program - SEP-01: Severe Sepsis and Septic Shock Early Management Bundle](#)

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Quality Snapshot

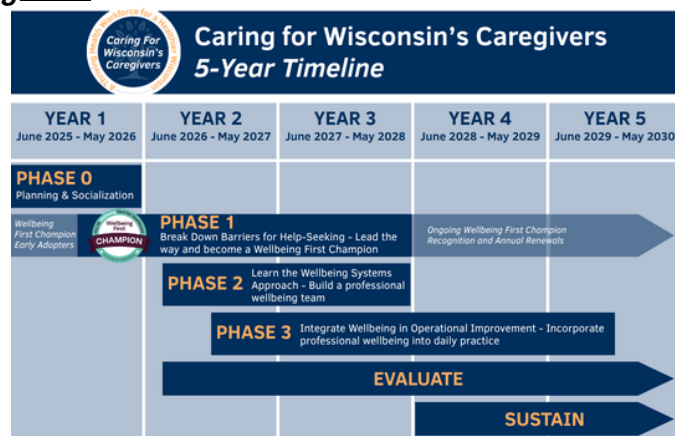


**Wisconsin Hospitals
are Committed to
Continuous
Quality
Improvement**

*through
education and
collaboration*

Caring for Wisconsin's Caregivers

Since June 2025, WHA has been partnering with the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Endowment on the Caring for Wisconsin's Caregivers Health Workforce Well-Being Landmark Initiative, in collaboration with the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation. This effort is focused on developing a long-term, voluntary and evidence-informed statewide well-being plan tailored to Wisconsin's diverse health care environments - making Wisconsin the best place for health professionals to work and thrive, guided by this multi-phased approach.



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 25%
- Surgical Site Infection due to Abdominal Hysterectomy reduced by 27%

PATIENT SAFETY

- Sepsis-1 reduced by 1%
- Pneumothorax reduced by 30%
- Perioperative Hemorrhage reduced by 44%
- In Hospital Fall Associated Fractures reduced by 21%

PATIENT EXPERIENCE

- Patient Rated Hospital High improved by 1%
- Room Rated Always Clean improved by 1%

BIRTH

- Newborn Screening Card Transit Time improved by 1%

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



READMISSIONS

- Pneumonia reduced by 2%
- Heart Failure reduced by .3%
- Heart Attack reduced by .5%
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease reduced by 1%
- Coronary Artery Bypass Graft reduced by 2%

MORTALITY PROCEDURES

- Carotid Endarterectomy reduced by 55%
- Percutaneous Coronary Intervention reduced by .5%

MORTALITY CONDITIONS

- Acute Stroke reduced by 12%
- Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage reduced by 10%
- Pneumonia reduced by 8%
- Heart Failure reduced by 1%
- Heart Attack reduced by 2%
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease reduced by 7%



**CheckPoint has
46 measures!**

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



Wisconsin Hospitals are Committed to Continuous Quality Improvement

through
education and
collaboration

Opioid and Substance Use Educational & Clinical Resources

As substance use disorders continue to impact health care systems, patients, families and communities throughout Wisconsin, educational opportunities such as the Wisconsin Rural Health and Substance Use Clinical Support Program (RHeSUS) Substance Use Disorders Boot Camps remain important for strengthening prevention, treatment, recovery support and care coordination.

RHeSUS continued its provider education efforts through a Substance Use Disorders Boot Camp in May at SSM Health Monroe Clinic. More than 60 health care professionals attended the event, focused on practical strategies to support patients and communities impacted by substance use disorders. This event provided health care professionals with actionable tools, evidence-based strategies and peer connections that support improved patient care, workforce confidence and organizational improvement efforts.

Planning is underway for a RHeSUS Substance Use Disorders Boot Camp for October in Green Bay.

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

Quality improvement specialists from 10 Wisconsin hospitals were recognized on June 17 for completing the 10-month Wisconsin Quality Residency Program. Designed for emerging health care quality leaders with limited experience in quality improvement and patient safety, the program provides a comprehensive, practice-focused curriculum delivered by subject matter experts and seasoned professionals. Participants gain essential knowledge in core quality concepts and leadership skills to support success in their roles. Established through a partnership between WHA and the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (RWHC) and supported in part by the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health (WORH), the program prepares new leaders to effectively advance quality initiatives within their organizations. Since its inception in 2014, the program has graduated 200 professionals specializing in quality improvement.

The WHA 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.



2026 QUARTER 2

Quality Snapshot



QUALITY and
PATIENT SAFETY



**Wisconsin Hospitals
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Continuous
Quality
Improvement**

*through
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Scan the QR code
for more quality
improvement
initiatives!

Superior Health Quality Alliance

Superior Health Quality Alliance is pleased to share some exciting news - The CMS 13th Scope of Work (SOW) enrollment period has been extended, giving hospitals additional time to enroll and access no-cost, individualized 1:1 technical assistance. This support is tailored to each hospital's unique needs, providing targeted resources and expert guidance to help improve performance and outcomes.



Hospitals can receive assistance with:

- Quality improvement projects to enhance clinical outcomes and meet CMS measures
- Data reporting and performance analysis to better use data for decision-making
- Patient safety and care processes to strengthen workflows and reduce risk

This initiative is aligned with CMS Overall Hospital Star Ratings and Value-Based Purchasing programs, supporting hospitals in improving quality, safety, and performance outcomes.

Wisconsin Dental Pain Protocol

The Wisconsin Dental Pain Protocol (WDPP) continued to build momentum through training, outreach and collaboration. A refresher training was conducted with one participating health system, where 12 providers strengthened their understanding of the WDPP clinical algorithm, referral process and dental block techniques. Interest in expanding the protocol is growing, with leadership meetings held across three additional health systems to explore implementation. To support ongoing learning and connection, a Community of Practice meeting was facilitated with leaders, care coordinators and dental providers from three participating sites, bringing together eight attendees to share insights and best practices. Awareness of WDPP was further expanded through a statewide presentation promoting the protocol's impact and opportunities for adoption.



Wisconsin Office of Rural Health - Swing Bed Optimization Program

Swing bed programs present a valuable opportunity to enhance performance and sustainability for Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) in Wisconsin and nationwide. Successful optimization begins with a strong foundation of high-quality care, positive patient outcomes and full compliance with regulatory requirements. This project targets key performance indicators, including hospital readmissions, swing bed utilization (days), patients' ability to return to their prior residence and adherence to Conditions of Participation. By advancing these metrics, participating CAHs gain meaningful data to clearly demonstrate their quality, value, and impact to patients, families, communities and referring hospitals. The program includes three educational sessions, supplemented by technical assistance, covering Regulatory Compliance, Eligibility Criteria and Optimization Strategies, and Marketing and Promotion. In addition, two peer CAHs share best practices and provide mentorship to participants. This initiative is supported through FLEX grant funding from the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health. Since late 2024, 11 Wisconsin CAHs have participated in the program. Currently, four health system CAHs are participating with completion of the program in August.