

# 2026 QUARTER 1

## Wisconsin Hospitals Quality Snapshot



### 2026 Quarter 1 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**

**RANKS  
1<sup>ST</sup>**

**For hospital discharge information provided to patients for fifth consecutive year by CMS Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS).<sup>1</sup>**  
*- 90% of Wisconsin patients report receiving clear discharge instructions.*

**RANKS  
2<sup>ND</sup>**

**In percentage of incentive payments earned by eligible hospitals through CMS' Value-Based Purchasing (VBP) program.<sup>2</sup>**  
*- 89% of WI hospitals received incentive payments (compared to 51% nationally).*

**RANKS  
TOP  
10**

**For Medicare Spending Per Beneficiary (MSPB), reflecting efficient, high-value care for Medicare patients by CMS' VBP.<sup>2</sup>**  
*- For three consecutive years.*

**In Patient Experience for three consecutive years by CMS HCAHPS.<sup>1</sup>**  
*- Measures: cleanliness, nurse communication and overall hospital rating.*

**Critical Access Hospitals earned national recognition from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for strong statewide quality reporting and performance through the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP).<sup>3</sup>**

#### Footnotes

- [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\), Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems \(HCAHPS\)](#)
- [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\), Hospital Value-Based Purchasing \(VBP\) Program](#)
- [Health Resources & Services Administration \(HRSA\) Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project \(MBQIP\)](#)

# 2026 QUARTER 1 Quality Snapshot



Wisconsin Hospitals  
are Committed to  
Continuous  
Quality  
Improvement

through  
education and  
collaboration

## CheckPoint

CheckPoint provides transparent, easy-to-understand 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

- Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infections reduced by 23%
- Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections reduced by 15%
- Surgical Site Infection due to Colon Surgery reduced by 21%
- Surgical Site Infection due to Abdominal Hysterectomy reduced by 35%
- Clostridioides difficile Infections reduced by 3%

#### PATIENT SAFETY

- Sepsis-1 reduced by 3%
- Pneumothorax reduced by 11%
- Perioperative Hemorrhage reduced by 33%

#### PATIENT EXPERIENCE

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

#### READMISSIONS

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

#### MORTALITY PROCEDURES

- Coronary Artery Bypass Graft reduced by 6%
- Carotid Endarterectomy reduced by 25%

#### MORTALITY CONDITIONS

- Acute Stroke reduced by 27%
- Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage reduced by 13%
- Pneumonia reduced by 8%
- Heart Failure reduced by 1%
- Heart Attack reduced by 2%
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease reduced by 7%

Scan the QR code to the right or visit [checkpoint.wha.org](http://checkpoint.wha.org)



CheckPoint has **48** measures!

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

## Caring for Wisconsin's Caregivers

This initiative brings together hospital and health system leaders, well-being champions and national and local experts to focus on health workforce well-being and to shape a shared, statewide approach to caring for Wisconsin's healthcare workforce.



## Health Care Quality Showcase

The Health Care Quality Poster Showcase is held annually in the Capitol Rotunda, featuring hospitals' quality and patient safety improvement efforts.





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### ***Opioid and Substance Use Educational & Clinical Resources***

Resources are provided through the Rural Health and Substance Use Clinical Support (RHeSUS) program, in partnership with UW Health Program for Research, Outread, Therapeutics, and Education in the Addictions (PROTEA), with funding from the Wisconsin Partnership Program. RHeSUS is dedicated to improving access to opioid and substance use disorder (OUD/SUD) treatment across rural Wisconsin by expanding education, tools and support for healthcare professionals.

### ***Quality Residency***

Taught by field experts, this program equips new quality leaders with the essential skills to succeed and provides experienced leaders with timely insights into the evolving landscape of health care quality and patient safety.

### ***Stroke***

WHA collaborates with the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Wisconsin Coverdell Stroke Program to advance equity and quality in stroke prevention and care, particularly for high-risk individuals.

### ***Superior Health Quality Alliance***

WHA is a member of the Superior Health Quality Alliance (Superior Health), an eight-partner organization focused on improving care for Medicare beneficiaries. They collaborate with patients, clinicians, healthcare organizations and communities across Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin to support the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) quality improvement objectives.



**SUPERIOR HEALTH**  
Quality Alliance

### ***Wisconsin Dental Pain Protocol***

Emergency departments are teaming up with local dentists to better treat non-traumatic dental pain—helping patients get the care they need while reducing the use of opioids.

### ***Wisconsin Office of Rural Health***

Swing Bed Optimization Program - Swing beds offer key optimization opportunities for Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) in Wisconsin and nationally. Strengthening care quality, patient outcomes and regulatory compliance is essential. This program targets readmissions, swing bed days and compliance metrics, enabling CAHs to demonstrate value and communicate their quality to patients, families, communities and referring hospitals.



***For more information on these or other initiatives,  
scan the QR code!***



## WHA Excellence in Health Care Quality & Patient Safety Awards Program

Wisconsin  
Hospitals  
Celebrate Their  
Strengths in Quality  
Improvement Stories



Scan the QR code  
for more quality  
improvement  
stories!

The *Excellence in Health Care Quality & Patient Safety Program* recognizes hospitals that advance health care through quality improvements and patient safety outcomes. Below are the 2026 award recipients.

### **Reedsburg Area Medical Center**

#### Improving Patient Safety: Through Reduction of Blood Culture Contamination

- Contamination rates reduced from 4% to below 1% through iterative PDSA cycles.
- Achieved sustained performance well below national CDC/CLSI benchmarks.
- Generated ~\$163,000 in organizational savings yearly, strengthening patient safety.



### **Aspirus Stevens Point Hospital**

#### Early Identification of C. difficile: Improving Safety Through Screening



- Implemented EMR alerts, reinforced early testing expectations.
- Two-step nursing verification form improved accountability, reduced inappropriate testing after day 3.
- Resulted in zero hospital onset infections since June 1, 2025.

### **Children's Wisconsin**

#### Lock it Up: A Collaborative Approach to Safe Gun and Medication Storage

- The Safe at Home program strives to prevent injuries by promoting, educating and distributing safe storage products.
- Systemwide infrastructure developed to manage capacity across the health system.
- Implemented 341 safe storage products given to families in 15 counties.



### **Emplify Health by Bellin Behavioral Health**

#### Patient Safety and Restrictive Measures



- Emplify Health Promise and Values of BREATH guided the team to improve the restraint/seclusion plan and procedure.
- Implemented restraint review, timely feedback and education, debriefing, de-escalation and physical hands-on training.
- Incremental reduction in restraint utilization.