



you have a choice

“*The Hospital Comparison Tool provides very worthwhile information. I don't know where else I could have found it.*”

You didn't choose your medical condition, but you can choose your hospital.

There may be several hospitals in your area. Some have great reputations — some you don't know at all. How do you know which hospital is the best choice for the care you need?

Now it's easy. In the past, it was nearly impossible to find out about the hospitals in your area. Today, with access to the Hospital Comparison Tool, you can investigate your options from the privacy of your personal computer. It's a confidential service for you to use free of charge as a company benefit because your company is a HRHC HOSPITALpick subscribing member.

HOSPITALpick
... Your Hospital Comparison Tool

Expecting a hospital stay? Make a more informed decision using the Hospital Comparison Tool at www.hrhc.org/hospitalpick. Contact HRHC to subscribe and become a member: info@hrhc.org



The Hospital Comparison Tool

to help you make an informed decision

Does it matter which hospital I choose?

Put your mind at ease. Choosing a hospital you feel comfortable with is important. While all hospitals work hard to prevent errors, medical mistakes do happen. In fact, a 1999 report by the Institute of Medicine found that up to 98,000 Americans die every year from preventable medical mistakes made in hospitals. Forty-two percent of Americans say they've been involved in a medical

mistake, either personally or through a friend or relative.

It makes sense to compare. Using the information provided by the Hospital Comparison Tool, you can discuss your options with your doctor and together make the best choice for your situation.

What can I learn about the hospitals in my area?

You can learn several things about the hospitals you are considering.

Experience: In many situations, the more a hospital performs a procedure, the better the results, especially for complex procedures. Using the Hospital Comparison Tool, you can find out how many patients a hospital has treated for the type of care you need.

Results: You can find information on the specific complications that can occur as well as the mortality rate (the number of patients who died) for your specific procedure. These reports take into account the fact that some hospitals treat more seriously ill people than others. With this information, you can talk with your doctor about the best option for you.

Length of stay: When you go into the hospital, you want to spend as little time there as safely possible. The Hospital Comparison Tool can tell you the average number of days patients with your condition stay in the

hospital. Shorter stays may indicate better care with fewer complications.

Cost: The Hospital Comparison Tool will give you an idea of what the cost will be for your procedure. But depending on your insurance coverage, you may pay more or less depending on which hospital you select. And you should check with your health plan to learn which hospitals you can go to for care and whether this will affect how much you will pay.

The Hospital Comparison Tool provides you with information on hundreds of treatments and procedures, including:

- Angioplasty
- Cesarean section
- Colon surgery
- Coronary bypass surgery
- Heart failure
- Hysterectomy
- Knee replacement

Where does the information on hospitals come from?

The Hospital Comparison Tool provides information for all 50 states from federal and state agencies (typically the state department of health). While this information has always been public, consumers now have an easy way to access and compare the various data available. To

use the Hospital Comparison Tool, go to **www.hrhc.org/hospitalpick** and follow the login instructions. The information provided is the most current available, but it may not reflect recent changes. Please talk with your doctor before making a final decision.

HOSPITAL**pick**
... Your Hospital Comparison Tool

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