Facts about the Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® program

Launched in September 2011, The Joint Commission’s Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® program recognizes accredited hospitals that attain excellence on accountability measure performance. The program is based on data reported about evidence-based care processes for certain conditions, including heart attack, heart failure, pneumonia, surgical care, children’s asthma, inpatient psychiatric services, stroke, venous thromboembolism, and immunization. The recognition occurs in the fall of each year and coincides with the publication of The Joint Commission’s “Improving America’s Hospitals” annual report. The Top Performer on Key Quality Measures program is:

- Intended to be an incentive for all hospitals to improve and be the best they can be through attaining high rates of performance on all the accountability measures for which a hospital reports data.
- Consistent with the current themes of the pay-for-performance trends being enacted by federal and state governments and many private payers.
- A way to provide transparency to the public in the reporting of performance at the hospitals where they receive care.

For 2012, the total number of hospitals achieving Top Performer recognition increased by more than 77 percent over the previous year with 1,099 hospitals being recognized. These hospitals represent the top 33 percent of all Joint Commission-accredited hospitals reporting accountability measure performance data for 2012 (each year, the percentage of recognized hospitals varies). Of the 1,099 Top Performer hospitals, 424 achieved the distinction for the past two years in a row by sustaining their improvement efforts, and 182 achieved the distinction for the past three years in a row.

How the program works

- Inclusion on the list is based on an aggregation of accountability measure data reported to The Joint Commission during the previous calendar year. The Top Performer hospitals announced in 2013 are selected based on data that were reported for 2012.
- A recognized hospital must meet three performance criteria based on accountability data: 1) achieve cumulative performance of 95 percent or above across all reported accountability measures; 2) achieve performance of 95 percent or above on each and every reported accountability measure where there are at least 30 denominator cases; and 3) have at least one core measure set that has a composite rate of 95 percent or above, and (within that measure set) all applicable individual accountability measures have a performance rate of 95 percent or above. See the specific eligibility criteria.
- Top Performer hospitals are notified of their recognition approximately one week before the publication of The Joint Commission’s annual report.
- Recognized hospitals will receive a congratulatory letter from Joint Commission President and Chief Executive Officer Mark R. Chassin, M.D., F.A.C.P., M.P.P., M.P.H., a certificate of recognition, a communications toolkit, are recognized on The Joint Commission website, on The Joint Commission’s Quality Check website, and in the “Improving America’s Hospitals” annual report.

Hospitals not on the list

- Most hospitals not recognized as a Top Performer are performing well on accountability measures, but there is still room for improvement.
- The Joint Commission provides various resources to help hospitals improve their core measure performance, including the Core Measure Solution Exchange® and the Leading Practices Library. Both of these resources are available on The Joint Commission Connect extranet site.
- Since 2002, hospitals have been reporting data to The Joint Commission and have continuously shown improvement on core measures. The Top Performer program supports organizations in their quest to do better.
For more information, go to the [website](#), send an e-mail to [topperformersprogram@jointcommission.org](mailto:topperformersprogram@jointcommission.org) or call 630-792-5085.

*Being named a *Top Performer* by The Joint Commission does not ensure that any specific patient in such a named hospital will have any particular medical outcome. Nor is *Top Performer* status a reflection of the overall care at an organization. *Top Performer* recognition is based on hospital performance on measures about activity for a specific period of time in certain patient care areas, but not all the patient care areas provided by acute care hospitals.*