

Heart Attack Care

1. ACE Inhibitor or ARB for LVSD

Hospital Name	City	Rate	Cases
John Dempsey Hospital	Farmington	100%	37
Saint Vincent's Medical Center	Bridgeport	96%	113
Hospital of Saint Raphael	New Haven	94%	65
Stamford Hospital	Stamford	94%	34
Middlesex Hospital	Middletown	91%	43
Yale-New Haven Hospital	New Haven	89%	45
Hartford Hospital	Hartford	83%	238
Bridgeport Hospital	Bridgeport	82%	61
Danbury Hospital	Danbury	81%	59
The Hospital of Central Connecticut	New Britain	81%	36
Waterbury Hospital	Waterbury	74%	35
Saint Mary's Hospital	Waterbury	72%	36
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center	Hartford	67%	142

2. Aspirin at Arrival

Hospital Name	City	Rate	Cases
Danbury Hospital	Danbury	100%	237
Greenwich Hospital	Greenwich	100%	80
Griffin Hospital	Derby	100%	93
Milford Hospital	Milford	100%	38
Saint Vincent's Medical Center	Bridgeport	100%	302
John Dempsey Hospital	Farmington	99%	116
MidState Medical Center	Meriden	99%	83
Norwalk Hospital	Norwalk	99%	92
Saint Mary's Hospital	Waterbury	99%	181
Yale-New Haven Hospital	New Haven	99%	138
Manchester Memorial Hospital	Manchester	98%	53
Middlesex Hospital	Middletown	98%	124
Stamford Hospital	Stamford	98%	128
The Hospital of Central Connecticut	New Britain	98%	189
Bridgeport Hospital	Bridgeport	97%	232
Hospital of Saint Raphael	New Haven	97%	261
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital	New London	97%	142
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center	Hartford	96%	214
Waterbury Hospital	Waterbury	95%	132
William Backus Hospital	Norwich	95%	75
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital	Torrington	94%	52
Hartford Hospital	Hartford	94%	385
Rockville General Hospital	Vernon	94%	36
Bristol Hospital	Bristol	92%	52
Day Kimball Hospital	Putnam	92%	40
Windham Community Memorial Hospital	Willimantic	92%	38

3. Aspirin at Discharge

Hospital Name	City	Rate	Cases
Hospital of Saint Raphael	New Haven	100%	362
Manchester Memorial Hospital	Manchester	100%	33
Saint Vincent's Medical Center	Bridgeport	100%	390
William Backus Hospital	Norwich	100%	33
Bridgeport Hospital	Bridgeport	99%	256
Danbury Hospital	Danbury	99%	270
John Dempsey Hospital	Farmington	99%	165
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital	New London	99%	92
Saint Mary's Hospital	Waterbury	99%	174
Yale-New Haven Hospital	New Haven	99%	241
Greenwich Hospital	Greenwich	98%	53
Griffin Hospital	Derby	98%	49
Hartford Hospital	Hartford	98%	684
MidState Medical Center	Meriden	97%	38
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center	Hartford	97%	369
Stamford Hospital	Stamford	97%	87
Day Kimball Hospital	Putnam	96%	25
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital	Torrington	95%	38
Waterbury Hospital	Waterbury	95%	129
Middlesex Hospital	Middletown	94%	81
Norwalk Hospital	Norwalk	94%	36
The Hospital of Central Connecticut	New Britain	92%	114

4. Beta Blocker at Arrival

Hospital Name	City	Rate	Cases
Greenwich Hospital	Greenwich	100%	59
John Dempsey Hospital	Farmington	100%	113
Griffin Hospital	Derby	99%	74
Saint Vincent's Medical Center	Bridgeport	99%	267
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital	New London	98%	126
Saint Mary's Hospital	Waterbury	98%	159
Milford Hospital	Milford	97%	32
The Hospital of Central Connecticut	New Britain	97%	151

William Backus Hospital	Norwich	97%	61
Bridgeport Hospital	Bridgeport	96%	184
Middlesex Hospital	Middletown	96%	82
Norwalk Hospital	Norwalk	96%	50
Stamford Hospital	Stamford	96%	81
MidState Medical Center	Meriden	95%	60
Yale-New Haven Hospital	New Haven	95%	99
Danbury Hospital	Danbury	94%	205
Bristol Hospital	Bristol	93%	42
Hospital of Saint Raphael	New Haven	93%	249
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center	Hartford	92%	156
Waterbury Hospital	Waterbury	92%	97
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital	Torrington	89%	54
Day Kimball Hospital	Putnam	89%	28
Hartford Hospital	Hartford	88%	291
Manchester Memorial Hospital	Manchester	87%	52

5. Beta Blocker at Discharge

Hospital Name	City	Rate	Cases
Day Kimball Hospital	Putnam	100%	25
Greenwich Hospital	Greenwich	100%	47
John Dempsey Hospital	Farmington	100%	163
Manchester Memorial Hospital	Manchester	100%	46
MidState Medical Center	Meriden	100%	47
William Backus Hospital	Norwich	100%	50
Middlesex Hospital	Middletown	99%	107
Saint Vincent's Medical Center	Bridgeport	99%	397
Hospital of Saint Raphael	New Haven	98%	349
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital	New London	98%	97
Bristol Hospital	Bristol	97%	35
Stamford Hospital	Stamford	97%	97
The Hospital of Central Connecticut	New Britain	97%	150
Yale-New Haven Hospital	New Haven	97%	274
Bridgeport Hospital	Bridgeport	96%	276
Hartford Hospital	Hartford	96%	815
Norwalk Hospital	Norwalk	96%	57
Saint Mary's Hospital	Waterbury	96%	185
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital	Torrington	95%	43
Danbury Hospital	Danbury	95%	260
Griffin Hospital	Derby	95%	60
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center	Hartford	94%	447
Waterbury Hospital	Waterbury	93%	155

8. Smoking Cessation Advice

Hospital Name	City	Rate	Cases
Bridgeport Hospital	Bridgeport	100%	88
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital	New London	100%	25
Saint Mary's Hospital	Waterbury	100%	52
Hospital of Saint Raphael	New Haven	99%	122
Saint Vincent's Medical Center	Bridgeport	98%	110
Yale-New Haven Hospital	New Haven	98%	109
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center	Hartford	96%	167
Hartford Hospital	Hartford	94%	242
The Hospital of Central Connecticut	New Britain	93%	42
Waterbury Hospital	Waterbury	90%	41
Danbury Hospital	Danbury	73%	70

Heart Failure Care

9. ACE Inhibitor or ARB for LVSD

Hospital Name	City	Rate	Cases
John Dempsey Hospital	Farmington	100%	92
William Backus Hospital	Norwich	99%	68
Saint Vincent's Medical Center	Bridgeport	96%	204
Griffin Hospital	Derby	93%	60
Day Kimball Hospital	Putnam	92%	50
Hospital of Saint Raphael	New Haven	91%	183
MidState Medical Center	Meriden	91%	85
Rockville General Hospital	Vernon	91%	35
Stamford Hospital	Stamford	91%	184
Norwalk Hospital	Norwalk	90%	119
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital	New London	89%	124
Middlesex Hospital	Middletown	89%	90
Bridgeport Hospital	Bridgeport	88%	147
Greenwich Hospital	Greenwich	88%	75
Johnson Memorial Hospital	Stafford Springs	85%	26
Manchester Memorial Hospital	Manchester	85%	59
Windham Community Memorial Hospital	Willimantic	85%	52
Yale-New Haven Hospital	New Haven	85%	106
Saint Mary's Hospital	Waterbury	84%	106
The Hospital of Central Connecticut	New Britain	82%	180
Milford Hospital	Milford	81%	52
Bristol Hospital	Bristol	80%	90

NOTE: Hospital profiles are in alphabetical order by state, then city, then hospital within the city; Rankings are sorted by rate in descending order and exclude hospitals with less than 25 cases; (1) The number of cases is too small ($n < 25$) for purposes of reliably predicting hospital performance; (2) Measure reflects the hospital's indication that its submission was based upon a sample of its relevant discharges; (3) Rate reflects fewer than the maximum possible quarters of data for the measure; (4) Inaccurate information submitted and suppressed for one or more quarters; (5) No data is available from the hospital for this measure; Please refer to the User's Guide for a full explanation of data

Bridgeport Hospital

267 Grant Street Phone: 203-384-3000
 Bridgeport, CT 06610 Fax: 203-384-3943
 E-mail: kawise@bpthosp.org
 URL: www.bridgeporthospital.com
 Ownership: Voluntary non-profit - Private Accredited: Yes
 Emergency Services: Yes Licensed Beds: 425

Key Personnel:

President/CEO Robert Trefry
 Chief Medical Staff Constantine Manthous, MD
 Chairman Emergency Medicine Michael Werdmann, MD
 Director Infection/Disease Control David Baker, MD
 Director Medical/Surgical Nursing Kathryn Roy, RN
 OB/GYN Womens Health John Whetham, MD
 Manager Respiratory Therapy Evelyn Tkacs

Measure	Cases	This Hospital	State Average	U.S. Average	Top Hospital
Heart Attack Care					
ACE Inhibitor or ARB for LVSD	61	82%	78%	82%	100%
Aspirin at Arrival	232	97%	96%	92%	100%
Aspirin at Discharge	256	99%	97%	90%	100%
Beta Blocker at Arrival	184	96%	95%	87%	100%
Beta Blocker at Discharge	276	96%	98%	90%	100%
Fibrinolytic Medication Timing	0	-	26%	31%	100%
PCI Within 90 Minutes of Arrival ¹	5	80%	57%	54%	95%
Smoking Cessation Advice	88	100%	91%	88%	100%
Heart Failure Care					
ACE Inhibitor or ARB for LVSD	147	88%	87%	82%	100%
Discharge Instructions	264	76%	63%	61%	93%
Evaluation of LVS Function	343	98%	94%	83%	99%
Smoking Cessation Advice	43	100%	91%	82%	100%
Pneumonia Care					
Appropriate Initial Antibiotic	114	97%	85%	83%	94%
Blood Culture Timing	139	91%	91%	90%	100%
Influenza Vaccine	31	65%	75%	70%	100%
Initial Antibiotic Timing	175	83%	82%	80%	93%
Oxygenation Assessment	216	100%	100%	99%	100%
Pneumococcal Vaccine	149	83%	76%	69%	94%
Smoking Cessation Advice	43	98%	87%	80%	100%
Surgical Infection Prevention					
Prophylactic Antibiotic Given ³	214	76%	83%	77%	95%
Prophylactic Antibiotic Selection ⁵	-	-	97%	90%	100%
Prophylactic Antibiotic Stopped ³	192	71%	75%	72%	95%
Pregnancy Care					
Inpatient Neonatal Mortality	-	-	-	-	-
Third or Fourth Degree Laceration	-	-	-	3.63%	3.27%

Saint Vincent's Medical Center

2800 Main Street Phone: 203-576-6000
 Bridgeport, CT 06606 Fax: 203-576-5733
 E-mail: info@svhs-ct.org
 URL: www.stvincents.org
 Ownership: Voluntary non-profit - Church Accredited: No
 Emergency Services: Yes Licensed Beds: 391

Key Personnel:

President/CEO William J Riordan
 Chief Medical Staff Patrick Carolan Jr
 Cardiac Lab Edward Kosinski, MD
 Emergency Room Gary Nelson, RN
 Director Infection/Disease Control Grace Kim, MD
 CCU Spvg. Nurse Debbie Cavalier
 Director Medical/Surgical Nursing Nancy Newton
 Director Respiratory Therapy Maureen Parmlee

Measure	Cases	This Hospital	State Average	U.S. Average	Top Hospital
Heart Attack Care					
ACE Inhibitor or ARB for LVSD	113	96%	78%	82%	100%
Aspirin at Arrival	302	100%	96%	92%	100%
Aspirin at Discharge	390	100%	97%	90%	100%
Beta Blocker at Arrival	267	99%	95%	87%	100%
Beta Blocker at Discharge	397	99%	98%	90%	100%
Fibrinolytic Medication Timing	0	-	26%	31%	100%
PCI Within 90 Minutes of Arrival ¹	1	0%	57%	54%	95%

Measure	Cases	This Hospital	State Average	U.S. Average	Top Hospital
Smoking Cessation Advice	110	98%	91%	88%	100%
Heart Failure Care					
ACE Inhibitor or ARB for LVSD	204	96%	87%	82%	100%
Discharge Instructions	438	77%	63%	61%	93%
Evaluation of LVS Function	642	99%	94%	83%	99%
Smoking Cessation Advice	63	97%	91%	82%	100%
Pneumonia Care					
Appropriate Initial Antibiotic	207	85%	85%	83%	94%
Blood Culture Timing	316	90%	91%	90%	100%
Influenza Vaccine	62	82%	75%	70%	100%
Initial Antibiotic Timing	415	88%	82%	80%	93%
Oxygenation Assessment	467	100%	100%	99%	100%
Pneumococcal Vaccine	316	85%	76%	69%	94%
Smoking Cessation Advice	72	92%	87%	80%	100%
Surgical Infection Prevention					
Prophylactic Antibiotic Given ^{2,3}	458	81%	83%	77%	95%
Prophylactic Antibiotic Selection ²	101	92%	97%	90%	100%
Prophylactic Antibiotic Stopped ^{2,3}	455	89%	75%	72%	95%
Pregnancy Care					
Inpatient Neonatal Mortality	-	-	-	-	-
Third or Fourth Degree Laceration	-	-	-	3.63%	3.27%

Bristol Hospital

Brewster Road Phone: 860-585-3000
 PO Box 977 Fax: 860-585-3058
 Bristol, CT 06011
 E-mail: info@bristolhospital.org
 URL: www.bristolhospital.org
 Ownership: Voluntary non-profit - Private Accredited: Yes
 Emergency Services: Yes Licensed Beds: 152

Key Personnel:

President Thomas D Kennedy, III
 Chief Medical Staff Richard Zweig, MD
 Director Medical/Surgical Nursing Lynn Thompson, RN
 OB/GYN Womens Health Jayne Cluett, MD
 Chief Radiology Dennis Ferguson, MD
 Director Respiratory Therapy Lisa Corbett, RN

Measure	Cases	This Hospital	State Average	U.S. Average	Top Hospital
Heart Attack Care					
ACE Inhibitor or ARB for LVSD ¹	15	73%	78%	82%	100%
Aspirin at Arrival	52	92%	96%	92%	100%
Aspirin at Discharge ¹	22	95%	97%	90%	100%
Beta Blocker at Arrival	42	93%	95%	87%	100%
Beta Blocker at Discharge	35	97%	98%	90%	100%
Fibrinolytic Medication Timing	0	-	26%	31%	100%
PCI Within 90 Minutes of Arrival	0	-	57%	54%	95%
Smoking Cessation Advice ¹	8	100%	91%	88%	100%
Heart Failure Care					
ACE Inhibitor or ARB for LVSD	90	80%	87%	82%	100%
Discharge Instructions	120	63%	63%	61%	93%
Evaluation of LVS Function	199	90%	94%	83%	99%
Smoking Cessation Advice ¹	22	77%	91%	82%	100%
Pneumonia Care					
Appropriate Initial Antibiotic	164	88%	85%	83%	94%
Blood Culture Timing	222	82%	91%	90%	100%
Influenza Vaccine	67	93%	75%	70%	100%
Initial Antibiotic Timing	330	89%	82%	80%	93%
Oxygenation Assessment	414	99%	100%	99%	100%
Pneumococcal Vaccine	282	90%	76%	69%	94%
Smoking Cessation Advice	80	96%	87%	80%	100%
Surgical Infection Prevention					
Prophylactic Antibiotic Given ³	199	84%	83%	77%	95%
Prophylactic Antibiotic Selection	66	97%	97%	90%	100%
Prophylactic Antibiotic Stopped ³	196	62%	75%	72%	95%
Pregnancy Care					
Inpatient Neonatal Mortality	-	-	-	-	-
Third or Fourth Degree Laceration	-	-	-	3.63%	3.27%

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Hospitals whose Mortality Rate is Better than the U.S. National Rate

Heart Attack

Hospital	City	State	Phone	Web Site
Abbott-Northwestern Hospital	Minneapolis	Minnesota	612-863-4000	www.abbottnorthwestern.com
Advocate Lutheran General Hospital	Park Ridge	Illinois	847-723-2210	www.advocatehealth.com
Aurora Saint Lukes Medical Center	Milwaukee	Wisconsin	414-649-6000	www.aurorahealthcare.org
Avera Heart Hospital of South Dakota	Sioux Falls	South Dakota	605-977-7000	www.southdakotaheart.com
Barnes Jewish Hospital	Saint Louis	Missouri	314-747-3000	www.barnesjewish.org
Cape Cod Hospital	Hyannis	Massachusetts	508-771-1800	www.capecodhealth.org/
Evergreen Hospital Medical Center	Kirkland	Washington	425-899-1000	www.evergreenhealthcare.org
Hartford Hospital	Hartford	Connecticut	860-545-5000	www.harthosp.org
Hillcrest Hospital	Mayfield Heights	Ohio	440-312-4500	www.hillcresthospital.org
Maimonides Medical Center	Brooklyn	New York	718-283-6000	www.maimonidesmed.org
Maine Medical Center	Portland	Maine	207-871-0111	www.mmc.org
New York-Presbyterian Hospital	New York	New York	212-746-5454	www.nyp.org
Rex Hospital	Raleigh	North Carolina	919-784-3100	www.rexhealth.com
Saint Vincent Heart Center of Indiana	Indianapolis	Indiana	317-583-5000	www.theheartcenter.com
Saint Vincent's Medical Center	Bridgeport	Connecticut	203-576-6000	www.stvincents.org
Suburban Hospital Association	Bethesda	Maryland	301-896-3100	www.suburbanhospital.org
Trumbull Memorial Hospital	Warren	Ohio	330-841-9011	www.trumhosp.org

Note: Table shows hospitals whose 30-day risk-adjusted death (mortality) rate from heart attack is lower than the U.S. national rate of 16%

Heart Failure

Hospital	City	State	Phone	Web Site
Aventura Hospital & Medical Center	Aventura	Florida	305-682-7000	www.aventurahospital.com
Bay Medical Center	Panama City	Florida	850-769-1511	www.baymedical.org
Bayonne Medical Center	Bayonne	New Jersey	201-858-5000	www.bayonnemedicalcenter.org
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center	Boston	Massachusetts	617-667-7000	www.bidmc.harvard.edu
Beth Israel Medical Center	New York	New York	212-420-2000	www.bethisraelny.com
Brigham and Women's Hospital	Boston	Massachusetts	617-732-5500	www.brighamandwomens.org
Christiana Hospital	Newark	Delaware	302-733-1000	www.christianacare.org
Community Hospital	Munster	Indiana	219-836-1600	www.comhs.org/community
Genesys Regional Medical Center	Grand Blanc	Michigan	810-606-5000	www.genesys.org
Glendale Memorial Hospital & Health Center	Glendale	California	818-502-1900	www.glendalememorial.com
Good Samaritan Hospital	Baltimore	Maryland	410-532-8000	www.goodsam-md.org
Hackensack University Medical Center	Hackensack	New Jersey	201-996-3760	www.humed.com
Harper University Hospital	Detroit	Michigan	313-745-8040	www.harperhospital.org
Healtheast Saint John's Hospital	Maplewood	Minnesota	651-232-7000	www.stjohnshospital-mn.org
Hillcrest Hospital	Mayfield Heights	Ohio	440-312-4500	www.hillcresthospital.org
Liberty Hospital	Liberty	Missouri	816-781-7200	www.libertyhospital.org
Loyola University Medical Center	Maywood	Illinois	708-216-9000	www.luhs.org
Maimonides Medical Center	Brooklyn	New York	718-283-6000	www.maimonidesmed.org
Marymount Hospital	Garfield Heights	Ohio	216-581-0500	www.marymount.org
Mclaren Regional Medical Center	Flint	Michigan	810-342-2000	www.mclaren.org
Memorial Hermann Healthcare System	Houston	Texas	281-929-6100	www.mhhs.org
Mercy Hospital	Miami	Florida	305-854-4400	www.mercymiami.com
Methodist Hospitals	Gary	Indiana	219-886-4000	www.methodisthospital.org
Miami Valley Hospital	Dayton	Ohio	937-208-8000	www.miamivalleyhospital.com
Mount Sinai Medical Center	Miami Beach	Florida	305-674-2121	www.msmc.com
New York-Presbyterian Hospital	New York	New York	212-746-5454	www.nyp.org
Northwestern Memorial Hospital	Chicago	Illinois	312-926-2000	www.nmh.org
Olympia Medical Center	Los Angeles	California	310-657-5900	www.olympiamedicalcenter.com
Providence Hospital	Southfield	Michigan	248-849-3000	www.stjohn.org/Providence/
Saint Agnes Hospital	Baltimore	Maryland	410-368-6000	www.stagnes.org
Sinai-Grace Hospital	Detroit	Michigan	313-966-3300	www.sinaigrace.org
Southcoast Hospital Group	Fall River	Massachusetts	508-679-3131	www.southcoast.org/charlton/
Southwest General Health Center	Middleburg Heights	Ohio	440-816-8000	www.swgeneral.com
Saint Catherine Hospital	East Chicago	Indiana	219-392-1700	www.comhs.org/stcatherine/
Western Pennsylvania Hospital Forbes Reg Campus	Monroeville	Pennsylvania	412-858-2000	www.wpahs.org
White Plains Hospital Center	White Plains	New York	914-681-0600	www.wphospital.org
William Beaumont Hospital	Royal Oak	Michigan	248-898-5000	www.beaumont hospitals.com
Willis Knighton Medical Center	Shreveport	Louisiana	318-212-4000	www.wkmc.com

Note: Table shows hospitals whose 30-day risk-adjusted death (mortality) rate from heart failure is lower than the U.S. national rate of 11%

Glossary of Terms

Accreditation

An evaluative process in which a healthcare organization undergoes an examination of its policies, procedures and performance by an external private sector organization ("accrediting body") to ensure that it is meeting predetermined criteria. It usually involves both on- and off-site surveys. Also see the terms AOA, The Joint Commission, and Medicare-Certified Hospitals.

Acute Care Hospital

A hospital that provides inpatient medical care and other related services for surgery, acute medical conditions or injuries (usually for a short term illness or condition).

Acute Myocardial Infarction (AMI)

A condition (also called a heart attack) that occurs when the arteries leading to the heart become blocked and the blood supply is slowed or stopped. When the heart muscle can't get the oxygen and nutrients it needs, the part of the heart tissue that is affected may die.

Additional Measures

Measures included in the Hospital Quality Alliance measure set, reflecting care for discharges occurring on or after April 1, 2004 (Collection period varies by measure).

Acute Myocardial Infarction

- Fibrinolytic agent received within 30 minutes of hospital arrival
- Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI) received within 90 minutes of hospital arrival (previously PCI received within 120 minutes of hospital arrival, as well as, Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) received within 90 minutes of hospital arrival)
- Smoking cessation advice/counseling
- 30-Day Risk Adjusted Heart Attack Mortality

Heart Failure

- Discharge instructions
- Smoking cessation advice/counseling
- 30-Day Risk Adjusted Heart Failure Mortality

Pneumonia

- Blood culture performed in the emergency department prior to initial antibiotic received in hospital (previously Blood culture performed prior to first antibiotic received in hospital)
- Smoking cessation advice/counseling
- Appropriate initial antibiotic selection
- Influenza vaccination status

Surgical Care Improvement/Surgical Infection Prevention

- Prophylactic antibiotic received within 1 hour prior to surgical incision
- Prophylactic antibiotic selection
- Prophylactic antibiotic discontinued within 24 hours after surgery end time

American Hospital Association (AHA)

The national organization that represents and serves all types of hospitals, health care networks, and their patients and communities. AHA takes part in national health policy development, legislative and regulatory debates, and legal matters. AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends.

American Osteopathic Association (AOA)

A member association representing approximately 52,000 osteopathic physicians (D.O.s). The AOA serves as the primary certifying body for D.O.s, and is the accrediting agency for all osteopathic medical colleges and health care facilities.

The AOA writes a performance report on each hospital that it checks. You can call or write to AOA to find out a hospital's level of accreditation.

Angioplasty

In angioplasty, a catheter is used to insert a balloon that is inflated to open a blocked blood vessel. Percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) is one of several procedures used to open a blocked blood vessel, known collectively as a percutaneous coronary intervention or PCI.

Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitor

A medicine used to treat heart attacks, heart failure, or a decreased function of the left heart. They stop production of a hormone that can narrow blood vessels. This helps reduce the pressure in the heart and lower blood pressure.

Angiotensin Receptor Blocker (ARB)

A medicine used to treat patients with heart failure and a decreased function of the left heart. ARBs block the action of a hormone that can narrow blood vessels. This helps reduce the pressure in the heart and lower blood pressure.

Antibiotic

Medicine used to fight bacteria in the body.

Atherectomy

A procedure where a blade or laser on a catheter cuts through and removes blockages in blood vessels. It is one of several procedures used to open a blocked blood vessel (known as a Percutaneous Coronary Intervention or PCI).

Beta Blocker

A type of medicine that is used to lower blood pressure, treat chest pain (angina) and heart failure, and to help prevent a heart attack. Beta blockers relieve the stress on the heart by slowing the heart rate and reducing the force with which the heart muscles contract to pump blood. They also help keep blood vessels from constricting in the heart, brain, and body.

Blood Culture

A blood test that shows if there are bacteria in the blood, and what type of bacteria it is. It helps your doctor decide which antibiotic to use to treat a bacterial infection.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

The federal agency that runs the Medicare program for the elderly aged and disabled. In addition, CMS works with the states to run the Medicaid program for low-income individuals. CMS works to make sure that the people in these programs are able to get high quality health care. Also see the term DHHS.

Certification (Medicare-Certified)

State government agencies inspect health care providers, including hospitals, nursing homes, dialysis facilities and home health agencies, as well as other health care providers. These providers are certified if they pass inspection. Being certified is not the same as being accredited. Medicare or Medicaid only pays for care provided by certified or accredited providers.

Critical Access Hospital (CAH)

A small, generally geographically remote facility that provides outpatient and inpatient hospital services to people in rural areas. The designation was established by law, for special payments under the Medicare program. To be designated as a CAH, a hospital must be located in a rural area, provide 24-hour emergency services; have an average length-of-stay for its patients of 96 hours or less; be located more than 35 miles (or more than 15 miles in areas with mountainous terrain) from the nearest hospital or be designated by its State as a "necessary provider". Hospitals may have no more than 25 beds.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

A division of the U.S. government that administers many of the social programs at the Federal level dealing with the health and welfare of the citizens of the United States. CMS is an agency within DHHS.