

Local Hospitals Win National Recognition

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The annual *U.S. News and World Report* “[Best Hospitals](#)” rankings came out this week, naming top-performers in 94 U.S. metro areas, including Charlotte.

Five of the Charlotte area’s 16 hospitals won “top-performer” recognition in at least one specialty area. [Carolinas Medical Center](#) was named one of the 140 “Best Hospitals” in the U.S., and the [Levine Children’s Hospital](#) was named as one of 76 “Best Children’s Hospitals” nationwide.

The other local top-performing hospitals were [Carolinas Medical Center Northeast](#), [Gaston Memorial Hospital](#), [Carolinas Medical Center Mercy](#), and [Presbyterian Hospital](#). As a native of this area, I’ve worked for, been treated in, or visited a loved one in each of these facilities, and it makes me so proud when they receive national attention.

This is the [22nd](#) year that *U.S. News and World Report* has issued its Best Hospitals list, which is based on hospitals’ competency in treating certain high-risk conditions. However, this list is just one of many ways to judge the quality of the care you or a loved one is likely to receive.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has a program called “[Hospital Compare](#),” that rates hospitals on “[process of care](#)” actions, which are the best ways to treat certain conditions (as determined by people who study these kinds of things.) The Hospital Compare site also shows information on how patients did after they were released from the hospital. While Hospital Compare won’t let you compare hospitals like AutoTrader.com lets you compare hatchbacks, it will let you look at individual hospitals to see their scores in key areas, and how those scores rank against the North Carolina average and the U.S. national healthcare average.

I’ll be sharing more in the upcoming weeks about researching healthcare providers and facilities online, but I’m interested to hear about your online research. What sites have been helpful to you? Do you even trust online healthcare rankings? Let us know your thoughts!

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