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Failed Hospital Quality Ratings

Medicare issues star-ratings that are supposed to indicate the quality of a hospital. But researchers at the University Medical Center in Chicago say the government has miscalculated the star-ratings since the get-go. For two years, since they were first issued in 2016, the federal government’s ratings have been wrong.

Although there are seven measures that make up the ratings, such as timeliness, mortality and readmissions, the medical center found that the ratings were almost exclusively based on a single measure, safety of care.

Likely as a result of these findings, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have postponed the upcoming release of star ratings, which were scheduled for July.

“CMS Hospital Star-Rating System Has Been Wrong for Two Years, Health System Finds,” Maria Castellucci, Modern Healthcare, June 15, 2018: https://www.wsj.com/articles/maine-keeps-battling-over-medicaid-expansion-1529361736

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