



Interpreting National Hospital Rating Systems

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Presentation Outline

- Overview of national rating systems
- Common rating systems
- Variations
- Strengths
- Critiques
- Conclusions









Overview of National Rating Systems

- National hospital rating systems measure various aspects of healthcare quality
 - Overall quality
 - Patient safety
 - Common conditions
 - Specialty care
- There is no gold standard to rating hospitals
 - Each system has a slightly different goal
 - Wide variation in methodologies

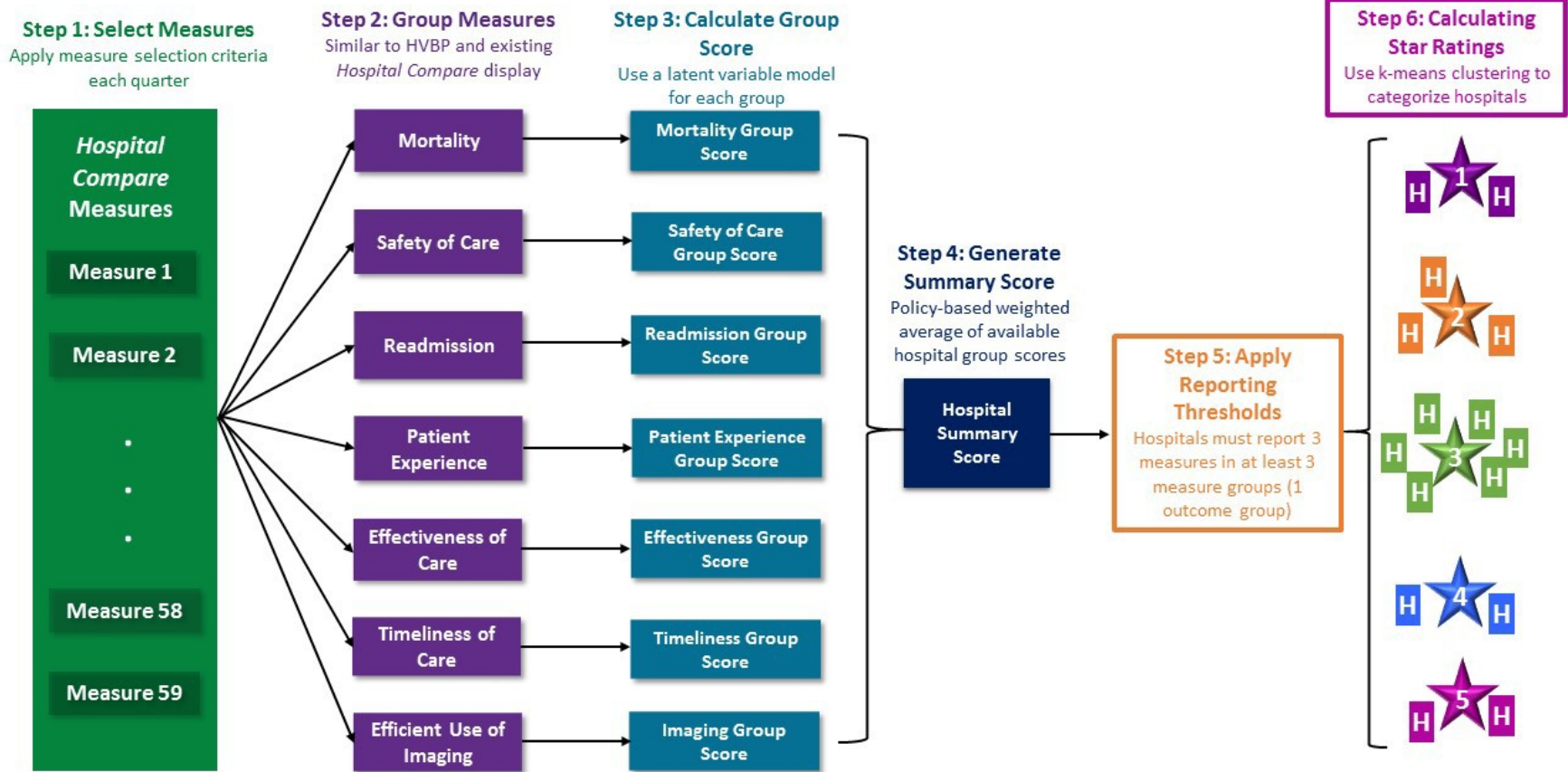
Common Rating Systems

- Well known systems include:
 - CMS Overall Star Ratings
 - Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades
 - US News and World Reports Best Hospitals
 - Healthgrades America's Best Hospitals
 - Commonwealth Fund (not limited to hospitals)
- Rating results vary
 - Stars
 - Letter grades
 - Lists
 - Rankings

Example of Variations

	UMD St. Joseph Medical Center	MedStar Franklin Square Medical Center
		
		
	<p>#3 in Maryland</p> <p>High performing in 9 procedures/conditions</p>	<p>#10 in Maryland</p> <p>High performing in 3 procedures/conditions</p>
	<p>Top 100 Hospitals Nationally (Top 2%)</p>	<p>Top 50 Hospitals Nationally (Top 1%)</p>

CMS's Five Star Rating -- Its Complicated



The Six Steps of the CMS Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating Methodology

Strengths of Rating Systems

- Provides a baseline for performance and comparison
- Consumers can use results to help find care
- Measurement science is evolving
 - Rating systems respond to consumer feedback
- Providers can use results for patient referrals
- Hospital leaders can use results to identify areas for improvement

Critiques of Rating Systems

- Potentially conflicting information
 - Easy to misinterpret
- Potential for misclassification
- Data and measurement limitations (e.g., heavy use of administrative data, some measures not risk adjusted)
- Comparing non-like hospitals
- Limited transparency of methodology

Conclusions

- Use caution when interpreting results
 - What is the intention of the rating system?
 - What information does it deliver?
- Rating systems should supplement decision making, not be the primary driver
- Due diligence when explaining results
- Measurement science will continue to evolve
 - Rating systems will move along with it