

Northwestern Memorial ranked best hospital in Illinois



For the seventh year in a row, Northwestern Memorial Hospital has been named the best in the state by U.S. News & World Report. (Zbigniew Bzdak / Chicago Tribune)

By **Lisa Schencker**
Chicago Tribune

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It's lucky No. 7 for [Northwestern Memorial Hospital](#): For the seventh year in a row, the Chicago hospital has been named the best in the state by U.S. News & World Report.

Northwestern was also the only Illinois hospital to crack the top 20 in the country, settling into the No. 13 spot for the second year in a row, according to the rankings, which were released at 12:01 a.m. Eastern time Tuesday.

[Rush University Medical Center](#) ranked second in the state, Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood ranked third, and [University of Chicago Medical Center](#) and Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn tied for fourth.

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mer called the designations “an honor that we are
letter.”

The Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago also grabbed top honors, ranking as the No. 1 hospital for rehabilitation in the country for the 28th year. The AbilityLab, which opened in a new \$550 million facility in Streeterville in 2017, replaced the old nonprofit [Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago](#) building on East Superior Street, changing its name in the process.

Hospitals were ranked on a number of factors, including survival and readmission rates, patient experience, patient safety and nursing quality, among other measures.

Hospitals often vie for high rankings, using them to attract more patients. But rankings have also stirred controversy among hospitals. They can vary widely depending on who's doing them.

For example, the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services often rates Rush University Medical Center more highly than Northwestern Memorial Hospital, awarding Rush five stars and Northwestern four in its most recent rankings. Under the same system, University of Chicago Medical Center, Loyola University Medical Center and Advocate Christ Medical Center earned three stars.

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A number of lower-scoring Chicago-area hospitals in recent years have questioned grades awarded by The Leapfrog Group, a nonprofit that advocates for quality, safety and transparency in health care.

Consumer advocates praise rankings and grades as a tool to help consumers choose the best health care, while others caution that the assessments don't fully take into account a hospitals' challenges and successes.

U.S. News rated the [Mayo Clinic](#) in Minnesota as the best hospital in the country, the [Cleveland Clinic](#) as the No. 2 hospital and [Johns Hopkins Hospital](#) in Baltimore third.

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