

Nursing Home Compare: The Five-Star Quality Rating System

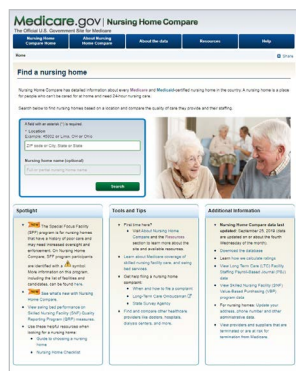
What is Nursing Home Compare?

Nursing Home Compare is a U.S. government website that allows you to find and compare nursing homes throughout the country.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) created the site, found here:

[medicare.gov/NursingHomeCompare/search.html](https://www.medicare.gov/NursingHomeCompare/search.html)

The website features the CMS Five-Star Quality Rating System.



What is the 5-Star Quality Rating System?

The Five-Star Quality Rating System is the CMS system used to give nursing homes ratings of 1 to 5 stars. CMS gives each nursing home an overall star rating as well as a star rating for each of these 3 key performance measures:

- Health inspections
- Staffing
- Quality measures

The 3 performance measures:

- 1 Health inspections.** The rating for this performance measure is based on the results of:
 - The 3 most-recent state health inspections in a 3-year period. (The most recent surveys have more weight than the surveys completed in the past 2 years.)
 - Any investigations into complaints during that 3-year period.
 - Any repeat visits needed to confirm that actions were taken to correct problems found in the inspections.

CMS inspectors look at the nursing homes in each state and compare them against each other. This is because each state has different management practices, licensing laws, and Medicaid policies.

★ **The health inspection rating holds the most weight in the calculation of a nursing home’s overall star rating. More stars for this performance measure mean fewer health risks.**


5-Star Quality Rating System

★ ★ ★ ★ ★	= Much above average
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	= Above average
★ ★ ★ ★	= Average
★ ★ ★	= Below average
★ ★	= Much below average

2 Staffing. The rating for this performance measure is based on 2 things:

- **The number of Registered Nurses (RNs)** that are working each day compared to the number of residents living in the nursing home.
- **The total staffing hours** (RN + Licensed Practical Nurse [LPN] + Nurse Aide hours) that are spent caring for residents each day. Each of these positions provides a different level of resident care needed in nursing homes.

The overall star rating for this performance measure is based on star ratings given for both staffing measures. For example, to get an overall 5-star rating for staffing, a nursing home must achieve 5 stars for their number of RNs working and 5 stars for their total number of staffing hours.

 **More stars for this performance measure mean a better level of staffing per nursing home resident.**

3 Quality measures (QMs). The rating for this performance measure is based on performance in a select set of measures (see examples at right) for both short-stay and long-stay quality of care:

- **Short-stay (100 days or less).** This rating reflects the quality of care delivered to temporary residents, whose typical goal is to improve their health status so they can return to their previous setting, like their home.
- **Long-stay (greater than 100 days).** This rating reflects the quality of care delivered to long-term residents, and whose typical goal is to maintain or attain their highest possible well-being while residing in the nursing home.

 **More stars for these measures mean better quality of care.**

Examples of quality measures (QMs)

Some examples of QMs included in this rating are the percentages of residents:

- Whose ability to move around on their own worsened
- Whose need for help with activities of daily living has increased
- With pressure ulcers (bed sores) that are new or worsened
- Who have had to visit an emergency department
- Who report moderate-to-severe pain
- Who experience one or more falls with a major injury
- With a urinary tract infection
- Who improved their ability to move around on their own

Where can I learn more?

This fact sheet provides only an overview of the Five-Star Quality Rating System. You can find more details in the *Technical Users' Guide* on the CMS website at [cms.gov](https://www.cms.gov).

Also, while nursing home ratings are important, they should not be the only thing you use to make a decision about care. CMS recommends that you visit nursing homes before making a choice. CMS has created the *Nursing Home Checklist* to help you think of questions to ask when visiting nursing homes. It is found at: [medicare.gov/NursingHomeCompare/checklist.pdf](https://www.medicare.gov/NursingHomeCompare/checklist.pdf)

Intermountain has a service agreement with several skilled nursing facilities that have a rating of **3 stars or above**.



Ask your healthcare provider for a list of these facilities.

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