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19 area nursing homes named best in the nation

Of the 79 Chicago nursing homes rated by U.S. News & World Report, these have been designated as top performing facilities.

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Nearly a quarter of Chicago nursing homes rated by U.S. News & World Report received top marks for 2018-19.

Of the 79 nursing homes in the city included in the report released today, 19 have been designated as top performing facilities.

The magazine this year modified its methodology to include a new short-stay rehabilitation rating and tweaked the overall rating to put more emphasis on staffing quality. As a result, any nursing home that earned top marks in at least one category and at least an average rating in the other was designated among the Best Nursing Homes.



Six of the top 19 Chicago facilities were rated high performing in both the overall and short-stay rehabilitation ratings. Meanwhile, nine were high performing in short-stay and at least average overall, and four were high performing overall and at least average in short-stay.

Given the new methodology, it's difficult to draw comparisons between this year and prior years, like 2017-18 when five Chicago facilities received top ratings.

U.S. News rated a total of 719 nursing homes in Illinois this year; 160 of those facilities were designated as top performers. Read the complete list [here](#).

Due to the changes, fewer facilities nationwide received the highest rating in the overall category, said Ben Harder, chief of health analysis at U.S. News. However, he said experts agreed it was important to recognize that certain facilities rank better in certain areas of care.

The short-stay rehabilitation rating is especially noteworthy for patients who need to stay in a facility following a major surgery or stroke, said Greta Martin, a health data scientist at U.S. News.

In addition measuring how well a facility is staffed, taking the levels of nurses into account, Martin said the rating is based on patient outcomes, such as the portion of patients who are rehospitalized within 30 days. She added that facilities with more registered nurses tend to provide patients with better care.

While the report is meant to help patients and their families make important decisions about where to receive care, there's a clear takeaway for payors.

Short-term rehabilitation, also called post-acute care, is an "increasingly critical financial and operational piece for payors ... (since) reimbursement money is determined by things like readmission rates," Harder said. "One of the interesting trends we see is, (nursing homes) that did well in the short-stay rehabilitation rating are those that are going to be associated with lower costs for health systems."

Among other factors, the report ranked nursing homes using data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, claim-based outcomes, resident complaints, and staffing data since April—when records became payroll-based rather than self-reported by facilities.

Here are the best nursing homes in Chicago, according to U.S. News, in alphabetical order. The hospitals rated high performing in both the overall and short-stay rehabilitation ratings are marked with an asterisk.

- The Admiral on the Lake
- Alden Estates of Northmoor
- Bethesda Rehab & Senior Care
- Buckingham Pavilion Nursing and Rehabilitation
- Community First Medical Center*
- Mercy Circle
- Montgomery Place
- Norwood Crossing
- Presence Saints Mary & Elizabeth Medical Center
- Presence St. Joseph Hospital*
- Presence Resurrection Life Center
- St. Joseph Village of Chicago*
- St. Paul's House & Health Care Center
- Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital*
- Selfhelp Home*
- Smith Village
- Swedish Covenant Hospital*
- The Terraces at the Clare
- Wesley Place