

Get With The Guidelines® (GWTG) Public Reporting FAQ

Participation

How do I know if my hospital is participating?

Check to see if your hospital is participating by visiting, <https://qualitynearme.heart.org/gwtgpublicreporting>, and entering the required search criteria.

If my hospital participates in multiple GWTG modules, do we have to opt-in or out of all of them, or may we opt-in for some and out for others?

Hospitals are provided the opportunity to opt-in based on the GWTG module. (i.e., if a hospital participates in Stroke and Heart Failure, they may choose to opt into heart failure and out of stroke.) Only measures for the module(s) which a hospital opts into will be displayed.

Is there a cost to participate in publicly reporting our hospital's GWTG performance achievement measures?

As a GWTG participant, there is no additional cost for hospitals to participate in public reporting.

When can I opt my hospital into GWTG public reporting?

The opt-in period takes place annually in late spring. Program-specific contacts at GWTG hospitals will receive an online opt-in form to complete via email. If a hospital participates in multiple GWTG modules and there are different contacts for the modules, each contact will receive a unique opt-in form specific to the modules in their purview. Reach out to your local AHA representative to ensure they have the correct contact for your hospital.

Does my hospital have to receive a GWTG Achievement Award to participate in public reporting?

Hospitals do not need to be award recipients to participate in public reporting. If a hospital opts into public reporting their data will be reported, even if they didn't receive an achievement award.

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Do I need to opt-into public reporting every year?

Opting-in is only required once, not annually, for each program. However, if your hospital opts-out at any time, then you'll need to opt-in again during the annual opt-in period during the spring of each year.

My hospital has opted-in, but now would like to opt-out. What do I need to do?

If your hospital is publicly reporting on <https://qualitynearme.heart.org/GWTGPublicReporting> and no longer wishes to participate, please email AHA.QIContracts@heart.org with your hospital name, city, state, site id, and which module(s) you are opting out of publicly reporting data.

My hospital isn't a GWTG participant, how do I participate in GWTG public reporting?

You must be a GWTG program participant to opt into public reporting. Contact GWTGsupport@heart.org to learn more and begin the GWTG enrollment process.

If I participate in GWTG Public Reporting, do I get credit for U.S. News and World Report's Best Hospitals Rankings?

Hospitals opting in and publicly reporting on <https://qualitynearme.heart.org/gwtgpublicreporting> on or before December 31 of the current year will receive transparency credit in U.S. News and World Report's subsequent year's adult Neurology & Neurosurgery rankings (GWTG-Stroke) and/or adult Cardiology & Heart Surgery ranking (GWTG-Heart Failure, GWTG-Resuscitation, GWTG-Atrial Fibrillation, or GWTG-Coronary Artery Disease). (i.e., Hospitals who opt-in by during the 2023 opt-in period and does not opt-out prior to year end will be included in U.S. News and World Report's 2024-25 Best Hospitals rankings released mid-summer 2024.)

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Reporting

Can my hospital choose what measures to report?

Hospitals opting into public reporting will have their data for ALL performance achievement (award) [measures](#) reported. Hospitals may not select a subset of these measures for reporting. (NOTE: Stroke will also include the Door to Needle 60 measure performance.)

I submit data for the Coronary Artery Disease (CAD) module, will both my STEMI and NSTEMI data be displayed if I opt-in?

Both STEMI and NSTEMI data are reported. If your hospital only submits STEMI data, then only those data are displayed.

Do you display performance even if we only have a few records for a measure?

Within each module, there must be a minimum of 30 records annually and each measure requires at least 6 records. If either of these are not met, then “volume too low to report” is displayed. (i.e., some measures have more results available than other measures within the same module, so the measure with at least 6 records will report the numerator and denominator while the one with fewer than 6 records will report the “volume too low to report” message.)

What data source is being used to display the public reporting data?

Data are automatically pulled from the GWTG data that hospitals submit online. Data are based on the final data used when determining recognition status for the previous calendar years’ data.

What year of data are being displayed?

Data from the previous calendar year are displayed until the most recent years’ data are finalized. In late winter/early spring the data displayed have a two-year lag. (i.e., In March 2023, the data represent the 2021 calendar year. In July 2023, the website is live with 2022 GWTG data.)