

From the Denver Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/denver/news/2022/07/26/colorado-us-news-best-hospitals-ranking-2022.html>

Health Care

Colorado hospitals rank well despite staff shortages and burnout

More Colorado hospitals met the standards for U.S. News rankings this year than in 2021.



UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora

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The No. 1 hospital in the state of Colorado, according to the [U.S. News and World Report 2022-23 Best Hospitals Ranking](#) released Tuesday, was last year's top-ranked UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora.

This marks the 11th year in a row U.S. News has ranked the hospital in the No. 1 spot. Three additional UCHealth hospitals ranked second, fourth and fifth on the list.

“While the effects of the pandemic continue to impact hospitals across the country, these rankings are a testament to the dedication and perseverance of UCHealth’s dedicated staff and clinicians in providing the very best care for our patients,” said Elizabeth B. Concordia, UCHealth president and CEO, in a press release.

Twelve Colorado hospitals met the high standards required to appear on the annual U.S. News list, more than [the nine included last year](#).

The top three ranked hospitals in the state of Colorado remained the same as last year, with UCHealth Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland and SCL Health Saint Joseph Hospital in Denver once again ranking No. 2 and No. 3 respectively.

Following Saint Joseph Hospital was a newcomer, UCHealth Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs, at No. 4. The hospitals tied for the No. 5 spot were UCHealth Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Sky Ridge Medical Center in Lone Tree, Rose Medical Center in Denver and Littleton Adventist Hospital.

The last four of the 12 ranked hospitals were also tied – with St. Anthony Hospital in Lakewood and Swedish Medical Center in Englewood at No. 9, rounded out by Good Samaritan Medical Center in Lafayette and Pueblo’s Parkview Medical Center tied for the No. 11 spot.

In addition to ranking the best hospitals nationwide, U.S. News separately ranked based on region and a list of more than 30 medical and surgical services.

The No. 1 Ranked UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital also ranked in five adult specialties, all of which were considered to be “high performing.” U.S. News ranked the hospital second in pulmonology & lung surgery, a ranking shared with National Jewish Health. The hospital also ranked No. 11 in rheumatology, No. 34 in diabetes & endocrinology, No. 43 in gastroenterology & surgery and no. 47 in ear, nose and throat.

In addition to those specialties, the No. 2 hospital, UCHealth Medical Center of the Rockies, was ranked No. 42 in urology.

Although they did not receive a formal ranking, eight of the twelve hospitals received a “high performing” classification for at least one other adult specialty. This happens when a hospital's rank for a given specialty is not within the top 50, but still falls in the top 10% of all rated hospitals.

For hospitals in the Denver metro area, U.S. News ranked UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital at No. 1, followed by Saint Joseph Hospital, Sky Ridge Medical Center, Rose Medical Center, Littleton Adventist Hospital, St. Anthony Hospital, Swedish Medical Center and Good Samaritan Medical Center.

The methodology used to rank the Best Hospitals rankings have been modified in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic in order to accurately reflect the changes now present within the industry. Already factored in are objective measures like survival rates, patient care and the standard of nursing care as well as how successfully each hospital helps its patients get back home.

Last year's list used data from a period predating the pandemic, making this year's list the first to incorporate a new methodology. In addition to excluding visits during which a patient had a diagnosis of Covid-19, they also excluded visits from March 2020 and other months in 2020 where the hospital's inpatients who had Covid-19 exceeded either 15% or the national average among Medicare beneficiaries for that time period (whichever metric was less).

Ben Harder, chief of health analysis and managing editor at U.S. News, stressed the importance of placing information in the hands of patients considering their options for health decisions.

"For patients considering their options for where to get care, the Best Hospitals rankings are designed to help them and their medical professionals identify hospitals that excel in the kind of care they may need," Harder said in a separate press release.

At a time when medical professionals nationwide are still [feeling the impact of the pandemic on the industry](#), seeing an increase in Colorado hospitals meeting the standards of the U.S. News rankings could provide a boost to the industry.