

Top Performers: Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership

Award Criteria

The Bernard A. Birnbaum, MD, Quality Leadership award annually highlights Vizient provider clients that demonstrate superior performance, as measured by the Vizient Quality and Accountability Study, conducted annually since 2005.

It was posthumously renamed in 2015 to honor Bernard “Bernie” Birnbaum MD, who served as senior vice president, vice dean and chief of hospital operations for NYU Langone Medical Center and as a member of the former University HealthSystem Consortium’s board of directors.

Quality Leadership performance of patient care is measured in six domains:

- Mortality
- Efficiency
- Effectiveness
- Patient centeredness
- Safety
- Variation in care

The ranking’s composite scoring system uses patient-level performance data from a variety of sources including:

- Vizient Clinical Data Base
- Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey, and
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Healthcare Safety Network

Cohort criteria

Comprehensive Academic Medical Centers that perform a minimum of

- 25 solid organ transplants
- 600 trauma cases of 1,500 acute transfers in from another acute care facility
- 125 combined cardiothoracic and neurosurgery cases

Large, Specialized Complex Care Medical Centers

Performs a minimum of 75 combined cardiothoracic and neurosurgery cases and one of the following:

- 25 solid organ transplants’
- 600 trauma cases
- 1,500 acute transfers in from another acute facility

Complex Care Medical Centers

Hospitals not meeting the above criteria but performing between 25 and 75 combined cardiothoracic and neurosurgery cases in a year.

Community hospitals

- Not in the previous described categories and excluding Critical Access & Specialty Hospitals
- At least 450 inpatient surgical cases annually

Small Community Hospitals

- Not in the previous described categories and excluding Critical Access & Specialty Hospitals
- Less than 450 inpatient surgical cases annually

Critical Access Hospitals

- Meet the Medicare Conditions of Participation (CoP) listed in the Code of Federal Regulations at 42 CFR 485 subpart F and whose most distinguishing feature is no more than 25 inpatient beds and annual average length of stay of 96-hours.

Pediatric

- Cares for at least 250 high-acuity medical neonates annually and receives more patients transferred in for care than it transfers out, by a margin of more than 5%
- Performs at least 50 major surgeries on neonates annually