



Indicator Library: Peer Group Methodology

November 2019

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Why Peer Groups?

Assigning hospitals to peer groups facilitates standardized comparisons by categorizing facilities that have similar structural and patient characteristics. Hospital peer groups were developed based on literature reviews, previous methodologies and consultations with experts in the field.

Based on 2015–2016 to 2017–2018 data, hospitals were assigned to one of four standardized peer groups:

- Teaching (T)
- Community — Large (H1)
- Community — Medium (H2)
- Community — Small (H3)

Teaching Hospitals

Hospitals were designated as Teaching if they

- Had confirmed Teaching status from the provincial ministry; or
- Were identified as Teaching in the provincial ministry's submission to the Canadian MIS Database.

Community Hospitals

Non-teaching hospitals were assigned to a Large, Medium or Small Community hospital peer group based on their volumes and patient complexities.

Community — Large

Large community hospitals met two of the following three criteria:

- More than 8,000 inpatient cases
- More than 10,000 weighted cases
- More than 50,000 inpatient days

Community — Medium and Community — Small

Hospitals not meeting the Community — Large criteria were assigned to a category based on their weighted cases:

- Community — Medium: 2,000 or more weighted cases
- Community — Small: Fewer than 2,000 weighted cases



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