

Patient survey report 2019

Adult Inpatient Survey 2019
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

NHS Patient Survey Programme

Adult Inpatient Survey 2019

Care Quality Commission

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care in England. We make sure health and social care services provide people with safe, effective, compassionate, high-quality care and we encourage care services to improve. Our role is to register care providers, and to monitor, inspect and rate services. If a service needs to improve, we take action to make sure this happens. We speak with an independent voice, publishing regional and national views of the major quality issues in health and social care.

Adult Inpatient Survey 2019

To improve the quality of services that the NHS delivers, it is important to understand what people think about their care and treatment. One way of doing this is by asking people who have recently used health services to tell us about their experiences.

The 2019 survey of adult inpatients (the seventeenth iteration of the survey) involved 143 acute and specialist NHS trusts. 76,915 people responded to the survey, yielding an adjusted response rate of 45%.

Patients were eligible for the survey if they were aged 16 years or older, had spent at least one night in hospital and were not admitted to maternity or psychiatric units. Trusts sampled patients discharged during July 2019¹. Trusts counted back from the last day of July 2019, including every consecutive discharge, until they had selected 1,250 patients (or, for a small number of specialist trusts who could not reach the required sample size, until they had reached 1st January 2019). Fieldwork took place between August 2019 and January 2020.

Surveys of adult inpatients were also carried out in 2002 and annually from 2004 to 2018. Although questionnaire redevelopments took place over the years, the survey results for this year are largely comparable to those from previous iterations.

The Adult Inpatient Survey is part of a wider programme of NHS patient surveys which covers a range of topics, including children and young people's services, community mental health services, urgent and emergency care services and maternity services. To find out more about the programme and to see the results from previous surveys, please see the links in the 'Further information' section.

CQC will use the results from the survey in the regulation, monitoring and inspection of NHS acute trusts in England. We will use data from the survey in our system of CQC Insight, which provides inspectors with an assessment of performance in areas of care within an NHS trust that need to be followed up. Survey data will also be used to support CQC inspections. NHS England and NHS Improvement will use the results to check progress and improvement against the objectives set out in the NHS mandate, and the Department of Health and Social Care will hold providers to account for the outcomes they achieve.

This research was carried out in accordance with the international standard for organisations conducting social research (accreditation to ISO20252:2012; certificate number GB08/74322).

Interpreting the report

This report shows how your trust scored for each evaluative question in the survey, compared with other trusts that took part. It uses an analysis technique called the '**expected range**' to determine if your trust is performing 'about the same', 'better' or 'worse' compared with most other trusts. For more information on the expected range, please see the 'methodology' section below. This approach is designed to help understand the performance of individual trusts, and to identify areas for improvement.

¹31 trusts sampled additional months because of small patient throughputs.

This report shows the same data as published on the CQC website (<https://www.cqc.org.uk/surveys>). The CQC website displays the data in a more simplified way, identifying whether a trust performed 'better', 'worse' or 'about the same' as the majority of other trusts for each question and section.

Standardisation

People's characteristics, such as age and gender, can influence their experience of care and the way they report it. For example, research shows that men tend to report more positive experiences than women, and older people more so than younger people. Since trusts have differing profiles of people who use their services, this could potentially affect their results and make trust comparisons difficult. A trust's results could appear better or worse than if they had a slightly different profile of patients.

To account for this, we 'standardise' the data, which means we apply a weight to individual responses to account for differences in demographic profile between trusts. For each trust, results have been standardised by age, gender and method of admission (emergency or elective) of respondents to reflect the 'national' age-gender-admission type distribution (based on all respondents to the survey). This helps to ensure that no trust will appear better or worse than another because of its respondent profile. It therefore enables a more accurate comparison of results from trusts with different population profiles. In most cases this standardisation will not have a large impact on trust results; it does, however, make comparisons between trusts as fair as possible.

Scoring

For each question in the survey, the individual (standardised) responses are converted into scores on a scale from 0 to 10. A score of 10 represents the best possible response and a score of 0 the worst. The higher the score for each question, the better the trust is performing.

It is not appropriate to score all the questions in the questionnaire. For example, some questions are descriptive, such as Q1, which asks respondents if their inpatient stay was planned or an emergency. Other questions are 'routing questions', which are designed to filter out respondents to whom the following questions do not apply. An example of a routing question is Q44 "During your stay in hospital, did you have an operation or procedure?". For full details of question scoring please see the technical document (see 'Further information' section).

Section scoring is computed as the arithmetic mean of question scores for the section after weighting is applied.

Graphs

The graphs in this report show how the score for the trust compares to the range of scores achieved by all trusts taking part in the survey. The black diamond shows the score for your trust. The graph is divided into three sections:

- If your trust's score lies in the grey section of the graph, its result is 'about the same' as most other trusts in the survey.
- If your trust's score lies in the orange section of the graph, its result is 'worse' compared with most other trusts in the survey.
- If your trust's score lies in the green section of the graph, its result is 'better' compared with most other trusts in the survey.

The text to the right of the graph states whether the score for your trust is 'better' or 'worse' compared with most other trusts. If there is no text, the score is 'about the same.' These groupings are based on a rigorous statistical analysis of the data, as described in the following 'Methodology' section.

Methodology

The 'about the same,' 'better' and 'worse' categories are based on an analysis technique called the '**expected range**' which determines the range within which the trust's score could fall without differing significantly from the average, taking into account the number of respondents for each trust

and the scores for all other trusts. If the trust's performance is outside of this range, it means that it performs significantly above or below what would be expected. If it is within this range, we say that its performance is 'about the same'. Where a trust is identified as performing 'better' or 'worse' than the majority of other trusts, the result is unlikely to have occurred by chance.

In some cases, there will be no orange and / or no green area in the graph. This happens when the expected range for your trust is so broad it encompasses either the highest possible score for all trusts (no green section) or the lowest possible score for all trusts (no orange section). This could be because there were few respondents and / or a lot of variation in their answers.

Please note that if fewer than 30 respondents have answered a question, no score will be displayed for this question (and the corresponding section the question contributes to²). This is because the uncertainty around the result is too great.

A technical document providing more detail about the methodology and the scoring applied to each question is available on the CQC website (see 'Further information' section).

Tables

At the end of the report you will find tables containing the data used to create the graphs, the response rate for your trust and background information about the people that responded.

Scores from last year's survey are also displayed where available. The column called 'Change from 2018' uses arrows to indicate whether the score for this year shows a statistically significant increase (up arrow), a statistically significant decrease (down arrow) or has shown no statistically significant change (no arrow) compared with 2018. A statistically significant difference means that the change in the result is very unlikely to have occurred by chance. Significance is tested using a two-sample t-test with a significance level of 0.05.

Please note that comparative data is not shown for sections as the questions contained in each section can change year on year.

Where a result for 2018 is not shown, this is either because the question was new this year, or the question wording and / or the response categories have been changed. Where the question wording or response options were modified, it is not possible to compare the results because any score change could be caused by alterations in the survey instrument, rather than variation in a trust's performance.

Comparisons are also not able to be shown if a trust has merged with other trusts since the 2018 survey, or if a trust committed a sampling error in 2018.

Notes on specific questions

Please note that a variety of acute trusts take part in this survey and not all questions are applicable to every trust. The section below details modifications to certain questions, in some cases this will apply to all trusts, in other cases only to some trusts.

All trusts

Q50 and Q51: The information collected by Q50 "On the day you left hospital, was your discharge delayed for any reason?" and Q51 "What was the main reason for the delay?" are presented together to show whether a patient's discharge was delayed by reasons attributable to the hospital.

The combined question in this report is labelled as Q51 and is worded as: "Discharge delayed due to wait for medicines/to see doctor/hospital transport."

Q52: Information from Q50 and Q51 has been used to score Q52 "How long was the delay?" This assesses the length of a delay to discharge for reasons attributable to the hospital.

Q53 and Q56: Respondents who answered Q53 "Where did you go after leaving hospital?" with "I was transferred to another hospital" were excluded from the scoring of Q56 ("Before you left

²The section score is not displayed as it would include fewer questions compared with other trusts.

hospital, were you given any written or printed information about what you should or should not do after leaving hospital?”).

Trusts with female patients only

Q11: If your trust offers services to women only, the score for Q11 “While in hospital, did you ever share a sleeping area, for example a room or bay, with patients of the opposite sex?” is not shown.

Trusts without an A&E department

Q3 and Q4: The results to these questions are not shown for trusts that do not have an A&E department.

Notes on question comparability

The following questions do not have historical comparisons because they were substantially modified for the 2019 questionnaire:

Q51: “What was the main reason for the delay”, where the third response option was modified from “I had to wait for an ambulance” to “I had to wait for hospital transport”.

Q66: “After being discharged, was the care and support you expected available when you needed it?” where the stem “after being discharged” was added.

For more information on questionnaire redevelopment and the reasons for modifying questions please see the Survey Development Report, available here:

<https://nhssurveys.org/wp-content/surveys/02-adults-inpatients/01-design-development/2019/Survey%20development%20report.pdf>

Further information

The full national results are on the CQC website, together with an A to Z list to view the results for each trust (alongside the technical document outlining the methodology and the scoring applied to each question):

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/inpatientsurvey>

The results for the adult inpatient surveys from 2015 to 2018 can be found at:

<https://nhssurveys.org/data-library/>

Full details of the methodology for the survey, including questionnaires, letters sent to patients, instructions for trusts and contractors to carry out the survey, and the survey development report, are available at:

<https://nhssurveys.org/surveys/survey/02-adults-inpatients/>

More information on the NHS Patient Survey Programme, including results from other surveys and a schedule of current and forthcoming surveys can be found at:

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/content/surveys>

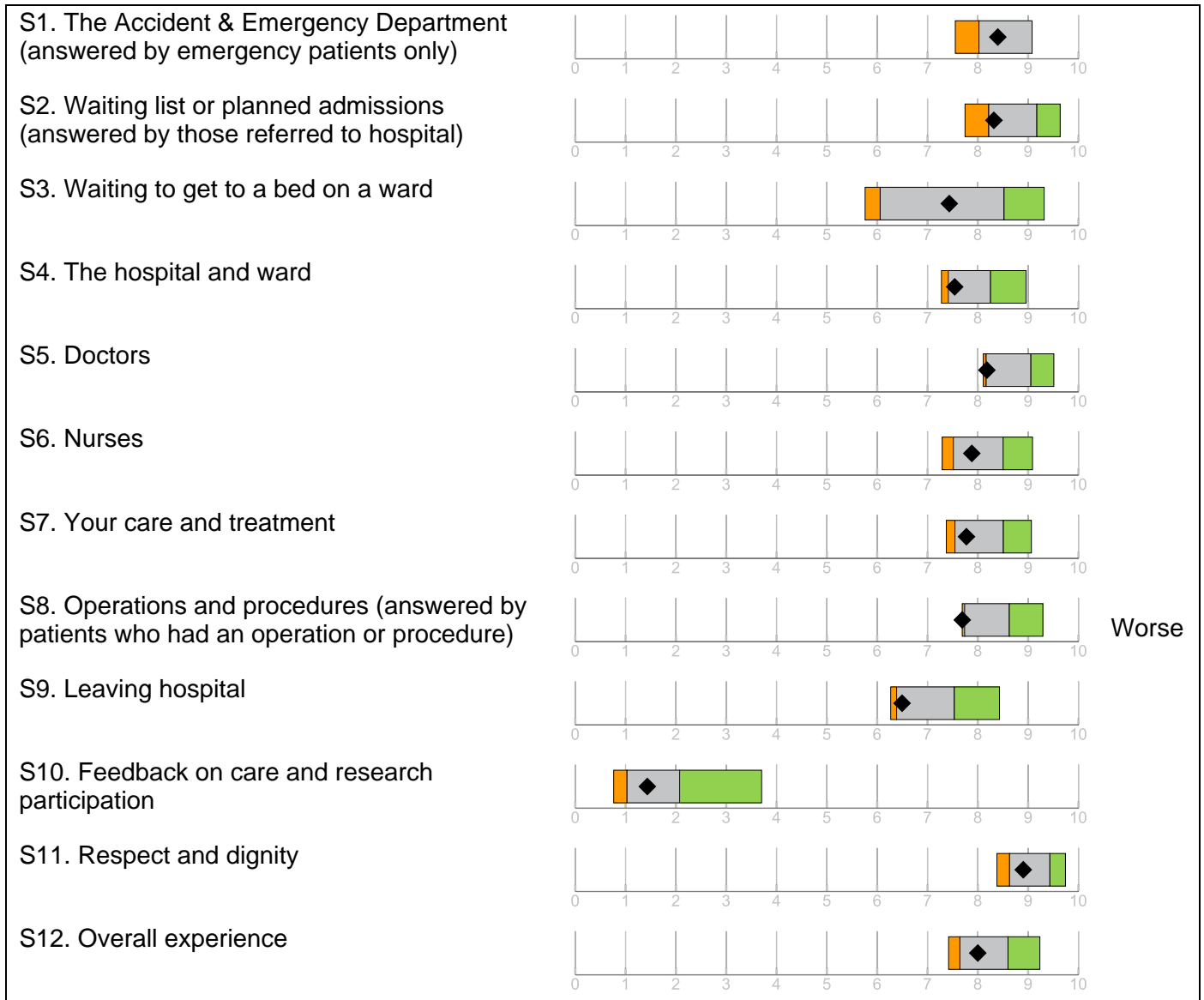
More information about how CQC monitors hospitals is available on the CQC website at:

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/what-we-do/how-we-use-information/monitoring-nhs-acute-hospitals>

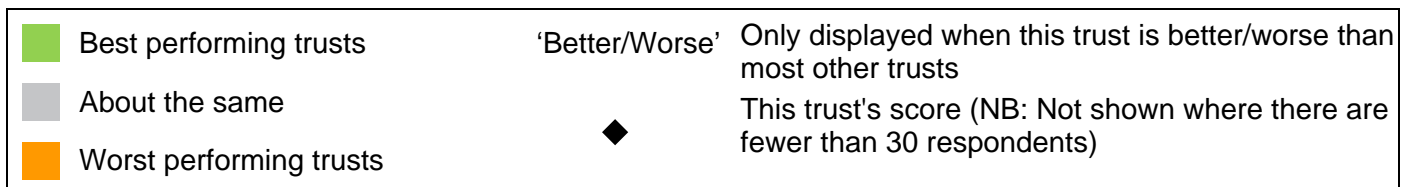
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Section scores



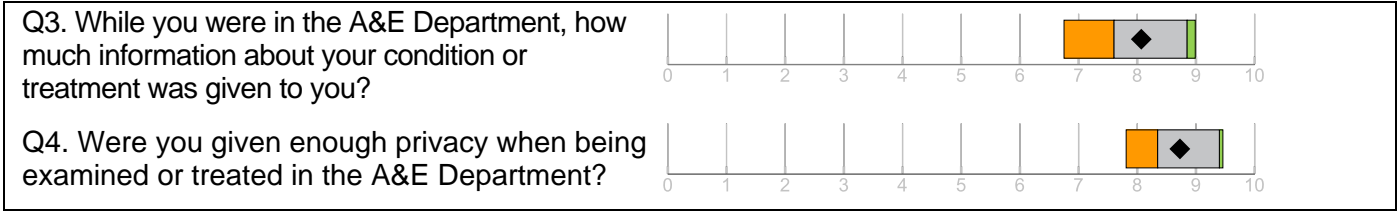
Worse



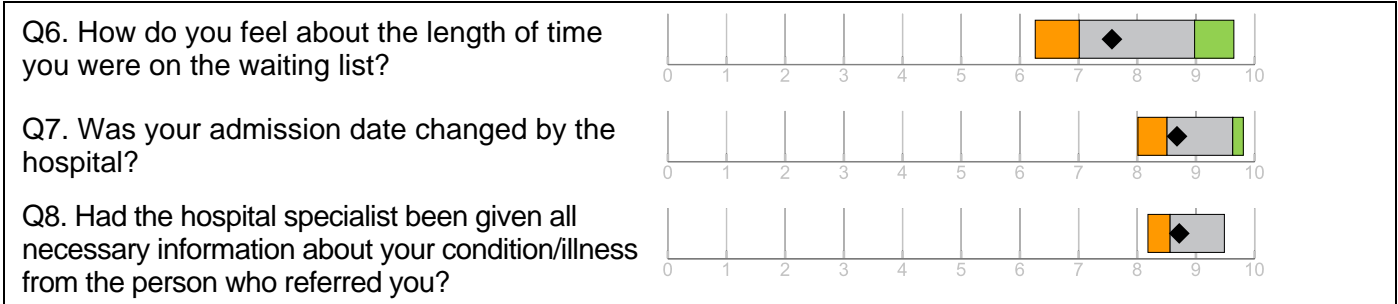
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The Accident & Emergency Department (answered by emergency patients only)



Waiting list or planned admissions (answered by those referred to hospital)



Waiting to get to a bed on a ward

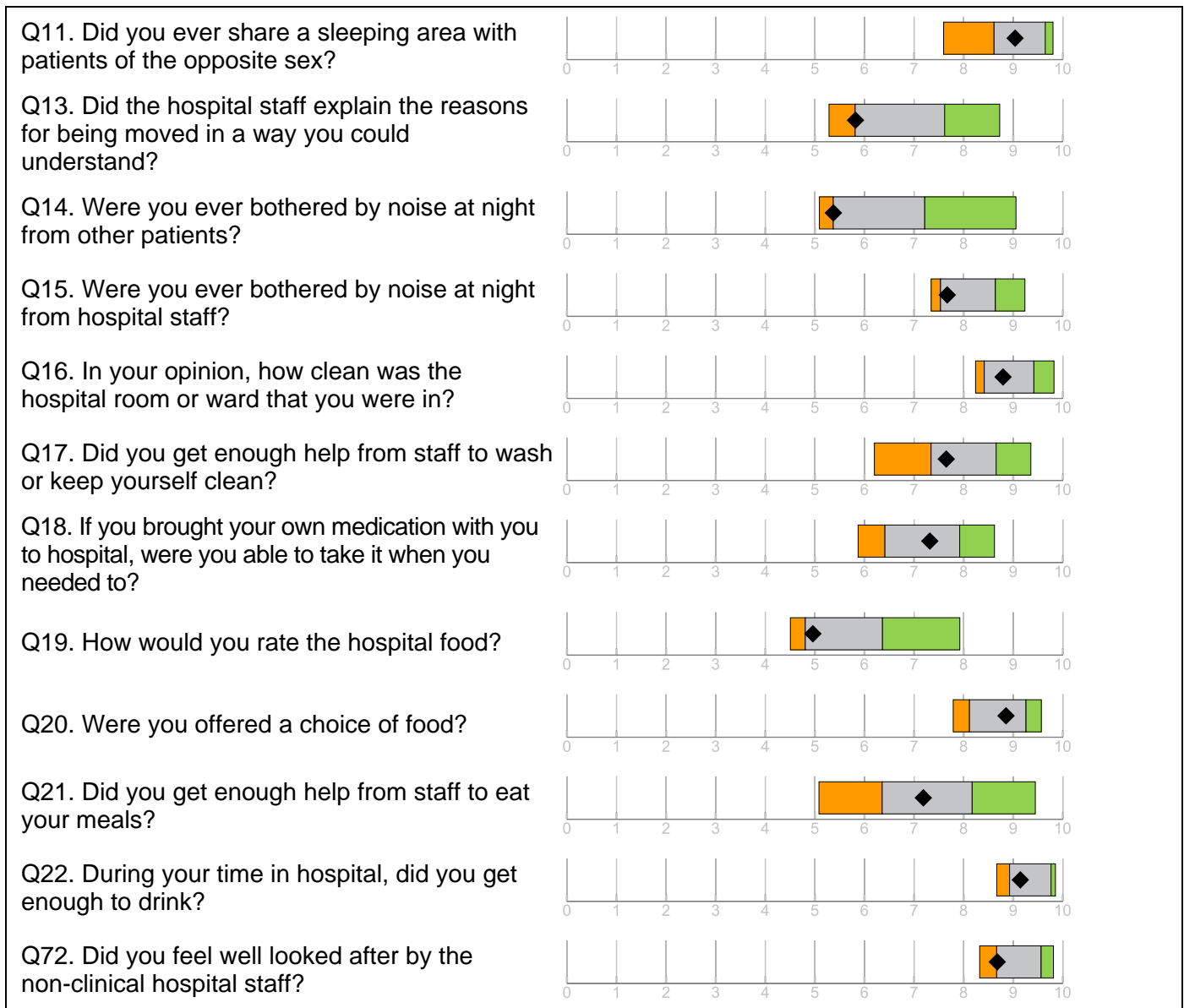


	Best performing trusts	‘Better/Worse’ Only displayed when this trust is better/worse than most other trusts
	About the same	
	Worst performing trusts	
		This trust's score (NB: Not shown where there are fewer than 30 respondents)

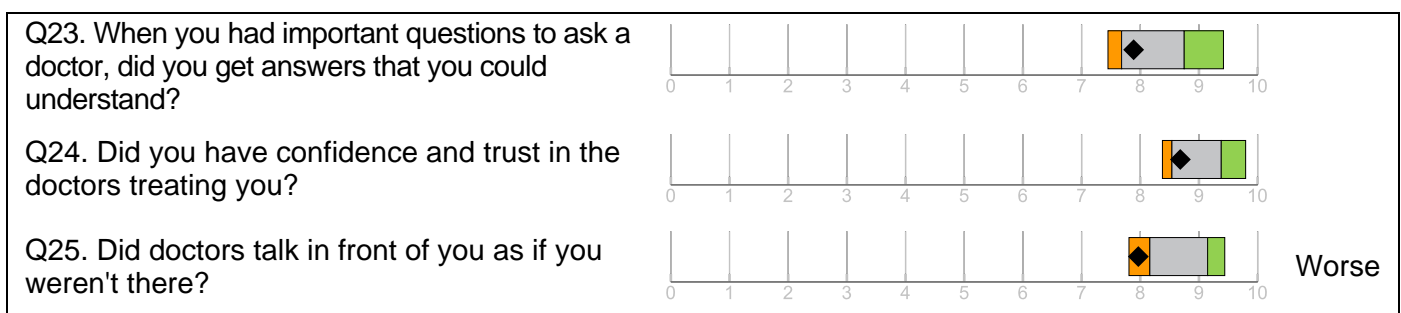
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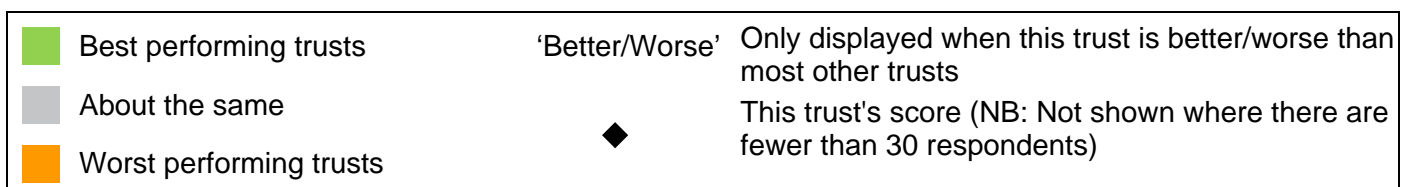
The hospital and ward



Doctors



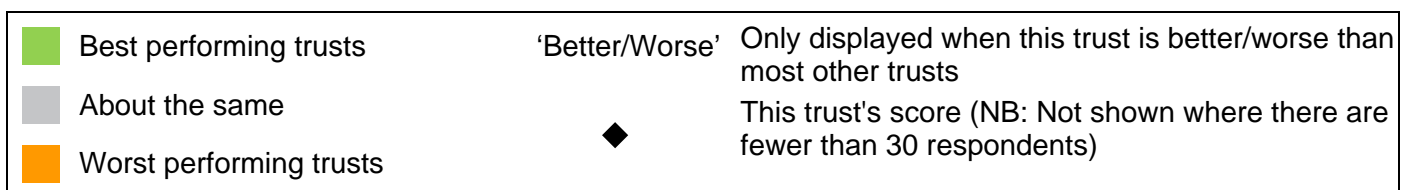
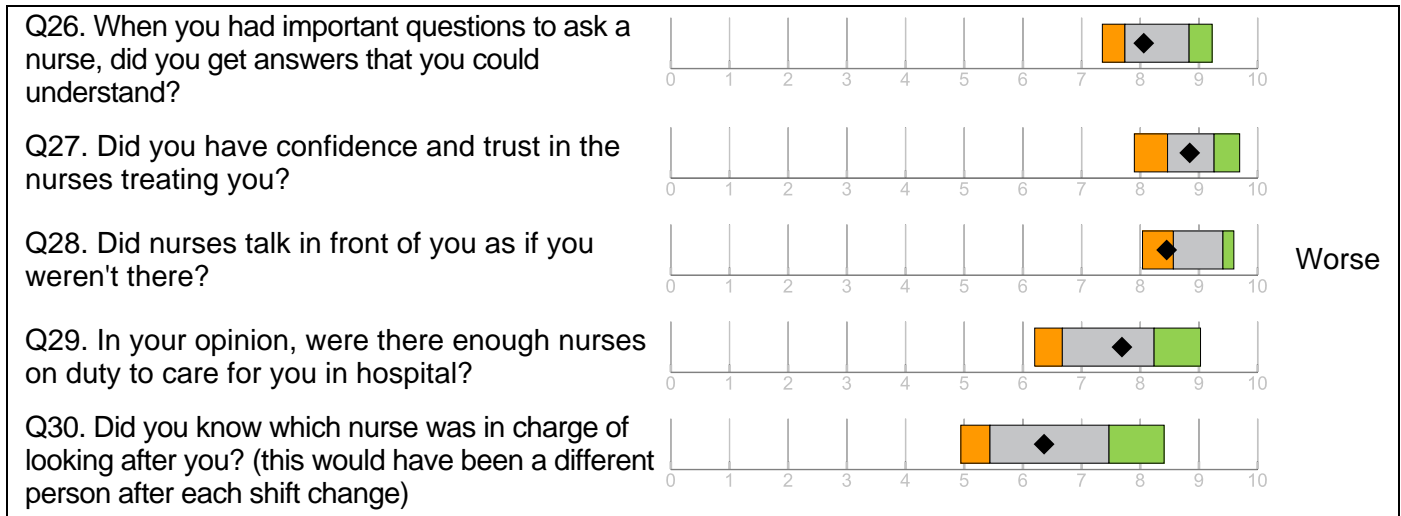
Worse



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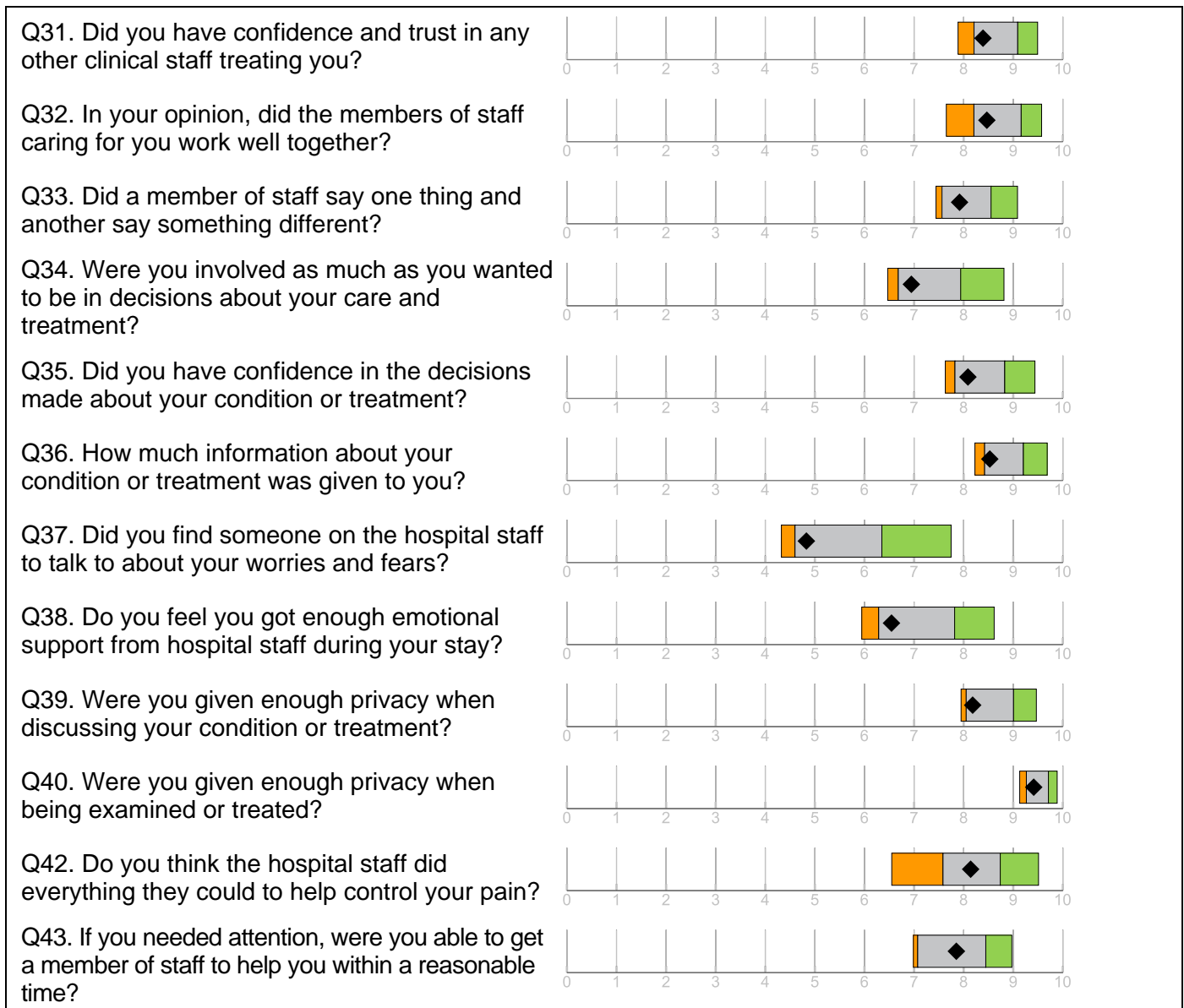
Nurses



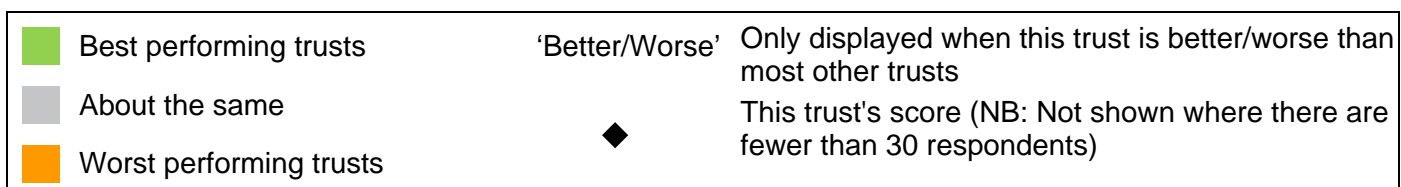
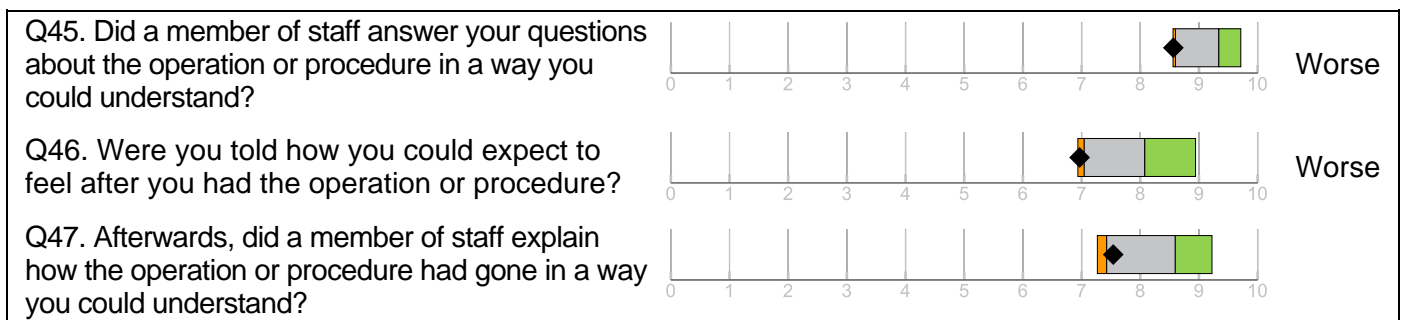
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Your care and treatment



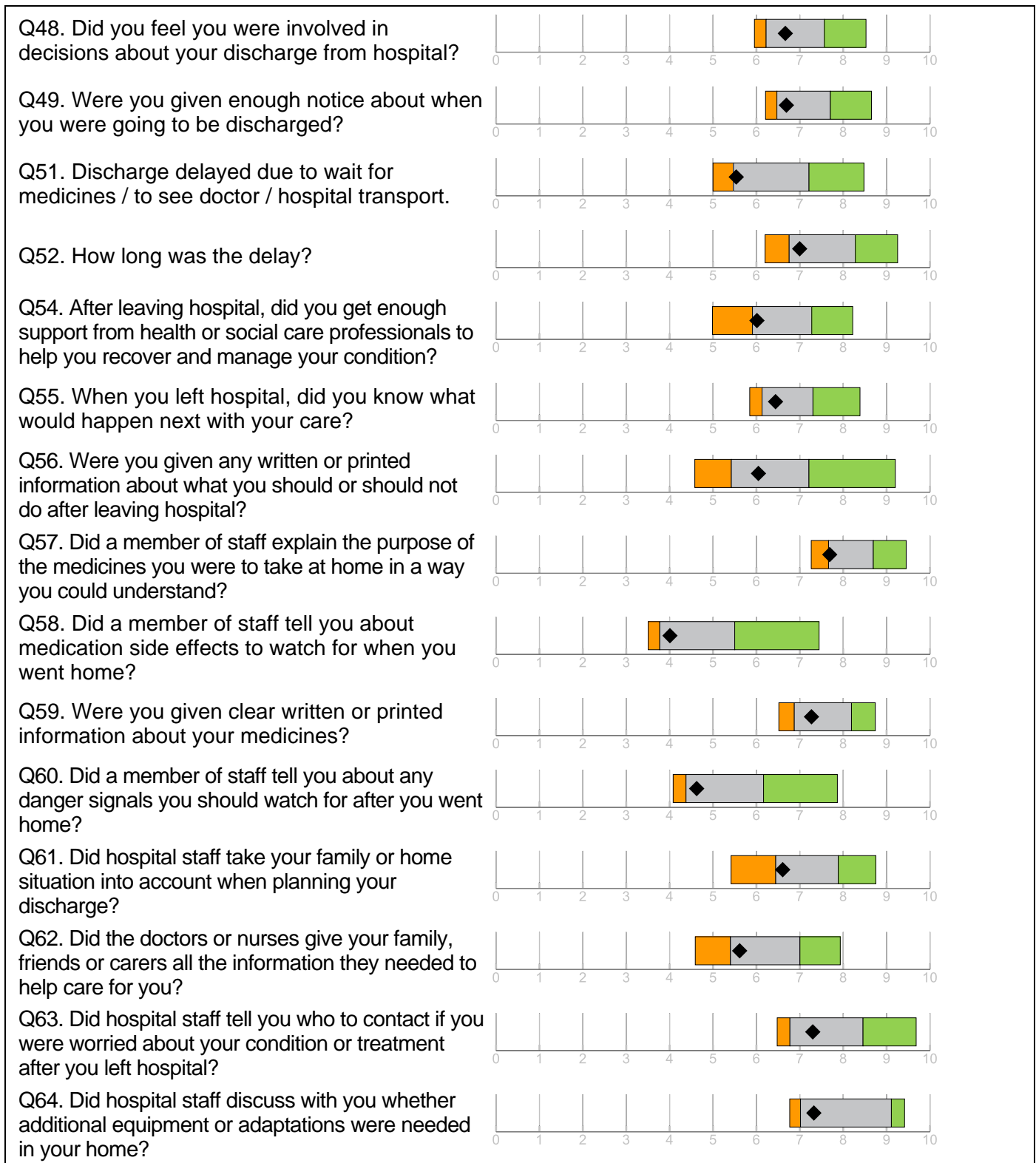
Operations and procedures (answered by patients who had an operation or procedure)



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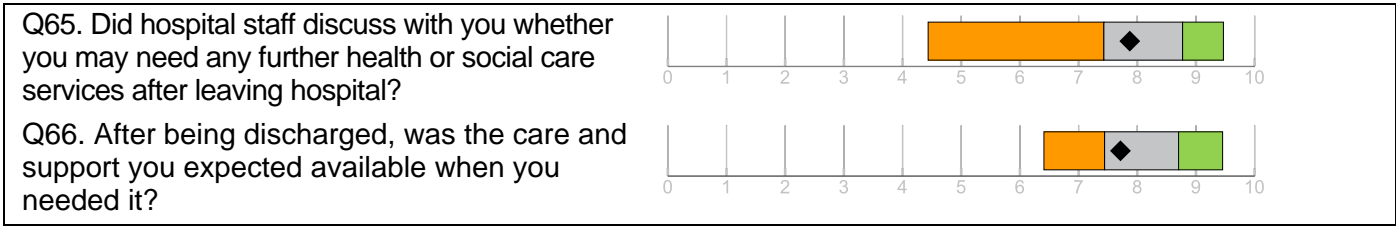
Leaving hospital



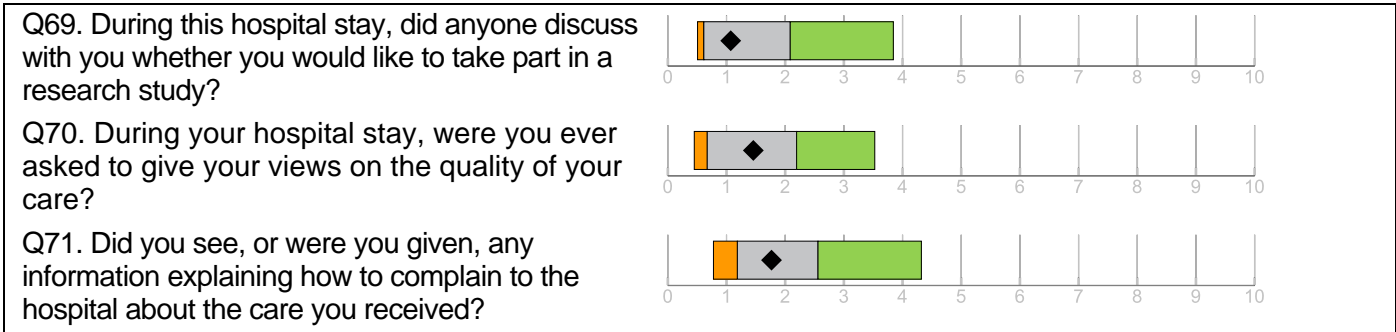
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best performing trusts About the same Worst performing trusts 	<p>‘Better/Worse’ Only displayed when this trust is better/worse than most other trusts</p> <p>◆ This trust's score (NB: Not shown where there are fewer than 30 respondents)</p>
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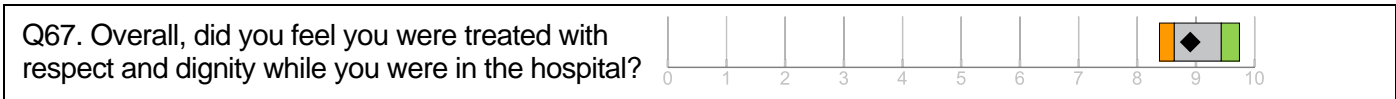
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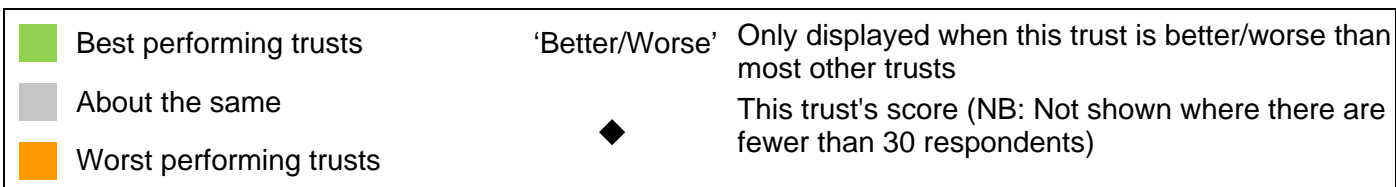
Feedback on care and research participation



Respect and dignity



Overall experience



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West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

	Scores for this NHS trust			Number of respondents (this trust)	2018 scores for this NHS trust	Change from 2018
	Lowest trust score in England	Highest trust score in England				
The Accident & Emergency Department (answered by emergency patients only)						
S1	Section score	8.4	7.6	9.0		
Q3	While you were in the A&E Department, how much information about your condition or treatment was given to you?	8.1	6.8	9.0	337	8.0
Q4	Were you given enough privacy when being examined or treated in the A&E Department?	8.7	7.8	9.5	377	8.6
Waiting list or planned admissions (answered by those referred to hospital)						
S2	Section score	8.3	7.7	9.6		
Q6	How do you feel about the length of time you were on the waiting list?	7.6	6.3	9.6	134	7.0
Q7	Was your admission date changed by the hospital?	8.7	8.0	9.8	138	8.9
Q8	Had the hospital specialist been given all necessary information about your condition/illness from the person who referred you?	8.7	8.2	9.5	138	8.8
Waiting to get to a bed on a ward						
S3	Section score	7.4	5.8	9.3		
Q9	From the time you arrived at the hospital, did you feel that you had to wait a long time to get to a bed on a ward?	7.4	5.8	9.3	529	7.1

↑ or ↓

Indicates where 2019 score is significantly higher or lower than 2018 score
(NB: No arrow reflects no statistically significant change)
Where no score is displayed, no 2018 data is available.

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West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

	Scores for this NHS trust	Lowest trust score in England	Highest trust score in England	Number of respondents (this trust)	2018 scores for this NHS trust	Change from 2018
The hospital and ward						
S4 Section score	7.5	7.3	9.0			
Q11 Did you ever share a sleeping area with patients of the opposite sex?	9.0	7.6	9.8	537	9.2	
Q13 Did the hospital staff explain the reasons for being moved in a way you could understand?	5.8	5.3	8.7	154	6.4	
Q14 Were you ever bothered by noise at night from other patients?	5.4	5.1	9.1	528	5.8	
Q15 Were you ever bothered by noise at night from hospital staff?	7.7	7.3	9.2	527	7.8	
Q16 In your opinion, how clean was the hospital room or ward that you were in?	8.8	8.2	9.8	532	8.5	
Q17 Did you get enough help from staff to wash or keep yourself clean?	7.6	6.2	9.4	316	7.7	
Q18 If you brought your own medication with you to hospital, were you able to take it when you needed to?	7.3	5.9	8.6	283	7.0	
Q19 How would you rate the hospital food?	5.0	4.5	7.9	504	5.5	↓
Q20 Were you offered a choice of food?	8.9	7.8	9.6	519	8.5	
Q21 Did you get enough help from staff to eat your meals?	7.2	5.1	9.4	109	6.8	
Q22 During your time in hospital, did you get enough to drink?	9.1	8.7	9.9	515	9.2	
Q72 Did you feel well looked after by the non-clinical hospital staff?	8.7	8.3	9.8	467	8.6	
Doctors						
S5 Section score	8.2	8.1	9.5			
Q23 When you had important questions to ask a doctor, did you get answers that you could understand?	7.9	7.4	9.4	475	7.8	
Q24 Did you have confidence and trust in the doctors treating you?	8.7	8.4	9.8	526	8.4	
Q25 Did doctors talk in front of you as if you weren't there?	8.0	7.8	9.4	520	8.2	

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Adult Inpatient Survey 2019

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

	Scores for this NHS trust	Lowest trust score in England	Highest trust score in England	Number of respondents (this trust)	2018 scores for this NHS trust	Change from 2018
Nurses						
S6 Section score	7.9	7.3	9.1			
Q26 When you had important questions to ask a nurse, did you get answers that you could understand?	8.1	7.4	9.2	447	7.9	
Q27 Did you have confidence and trust in the nurses treating you?	8.8	7.9	9.7	525	8.4	↑
Q28 Did nurses talk in front of you as if you weren't there?	8.4	8.0	9.6	523	8.8	↓
Q29 In your opinion, were there enough nurses on duty to care for you in hospital?	7.7	6.2	9.0	525	7.5	
Q30 Did you know which nurse was in charge of looking after you? (this would have been a different person after each shift change)	6.4	4.9	8.4	518	6.3	

↑ or ↓

Indicates where 2019 score is significantly higher or lower than 2018 score
(NB: No arrow reflects no statistically significant change)
Where no score is displayed, no 2018 data is available.

Adult Inpatient Survey 2019

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

	Scores for this NHS trust	Lowest trust score in England	Highest trust score in England	Number of respondents (this trust)	2018 scores for this NHS trust	Change from 2018
Your care and treatment						
S7 Section score	7.8	7.4	9.1			
Q31 Did you have confidence and trust in any other clinical staff treating you?	8.4	7.9	9.5	308	8.5	
Q32 In your opinion, did the members of staff caring for you work well together?	8.5	7.7	9.6	488	8.3	
Q33 Did a member of staff say one thing and another say something different?	7.9	7.4	9.1	527	7.8	
Q34 Were you involved as much as you wanted to be in decisions about your care and treatment?	6.9	6.5	8.8	519	7.0	
Q35 Did you have confidence in the decisions made about your condition or treatment?	8.1	7.6	9.4	522	7.9	
Q36 How much information about your condition or treatment was given to you?	8.5	8.2	9.7	498	8.6	
Q37 Did you find someone on the hospital staff to talk to about your worries and fears?	4.8	4.3	7.7	301	4.8	
Q38 Do you feel you got enough emotional support from hospital staff during your stay?	6.5	5.9	8.6	309	6.3	
Q39 Were you given enough privacy when discussing your condition or treatment?	8.2	7.9	9.5	518	8.3	
Q40 Were you given enough privacy when being examined or treated?	9.4	9.1	9.9	523	9.3	
Q42 Do you think the hospital staff did everything they could to help control your pain?	8.1	6.6	9.5	288	7.7	
Q43 If you needed attention, were you able to get a member of staff to help you within a reasonable time?	7.9	7.0	9.0	466	7.4	
Operations and procedures (answered by patients who had an operation or procedure)						
S8 Section score	7.7	7.7	9.3			
Q45 Did a member of staff answer your questions about the operation or procedure in a way you could understand?	8.6	8.6	9.7	256	8.8	
Q46 Were you told how you could expect to feel after you had the operation or procedure?	7.0	6.9	8.9	276	7.2	
Q47 Afterwards, did a member of staff explain how the operation or procedure had gone in a way you could understand?	7.5	7.3	9.2	275	7.5	

↑ or ↓ Indicates where 2019 score is significantly higher or lower than 2018 score (NB: No arrow reflects no statistically significant change)
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	Scores for this NHS trust	Lowest trust score in England	Highest trust score in England	Number of respondents (this trust)	2018 scores for this NHS trust	Change from 2018
Leaving hospital						
S9 Section score	6.5	6.3	8.4			
Q48 Did you feel you were involved in decisions about your discharge from hospital?	6.7	6.0	8.5	500	6.7	
Q49 Were you given enough notice about when you were going to be discharged?	6.7	6.2	8.7	526	6.7	
Q51 Discharge delayed due to wait for medicines / to see doctor / hospital transport.	5.5	5.0	8.5	499		
Q52 How long was the delay?	7.0	6.2	9.3	498	7.1	
Q54 After leaving hospital, did you get enough support from health or social care professionals to help you recover and manage your condition?	6.0	5.0	8.2	268	6.0	
Q55 When you left hospital, did you know what would happen next with your care?	6.4	5.8	8.4	420	6.3	
Q56 Were you given any written or printed information about what you should or should not do after leaving hospital?	6.0	4.6	9.2	509	5.9	
Q57 Did a member of staff explain the purpose of the medicines you were to take at home in a way you could understand?	7.7	7.3	9.5	371	8.2	↓
Q58 Did a member of staff tell you about medication side effects to watch for when you went home?	4.0	3.5	7.4	309	4.7	
Q59 Were you given clear written or printed information about your medicines?	7.3	6.5	8.7	332	7.2	
Q60 Did a member of staff tell you about any danger signals you should watch for after you went home?	4.6	4.1	7.9	383	4.8	
Q61 Did hospital staff take your family or home situation into account when planning your discharge?	6.6	5.4	8.8	310	6.5	
Q62 Did the doctors or nurses give your family, friends or carers all the information they needed to help care for you?	5.6	4.6	7.9	319	5.7	
Q63 Did hospital staff tell you who to contact if you were worried about your condition or treatment after you left hospital?	7.3	6.5	9.7	466	7.3	
Q64 Did hospital staff discuss with you whether additional equipment or adaptations were needed in your home?	7.3	6.8	9.4	122	6.9	
Q65 Did hospital staff discuss with you whether you may need any further health or social care services after leaving hospital?	7.9	4.4	9.5	262	7.5	
Q66 After being discharged, was the care and support you expected available when you needed it?	7.7	6.4	9.5	317		

↑ or ↓ Indicates where 2019 score is significantly higher or lower than 2018 score (NB: No arrow reflects no statistically significant change)
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	Scores for this NHS trust	Lowest trust score in England	Highest trust score in England	Number of respondents (this trust)	2018 scores for this NHS trust	Change from 2018
Feedback on care and research participation						
S10 Section score	1.4	0.8	3.7			
Q69 During this hospital stay, did anyone discuss with you whether you would like to take part in a research study?	1.1	0.5	3.8	457	0.9	
Q70 During your hospital stay, were you ever asked to give your views on the quality of your care?	1.5	0.5	3.5	451	1.3	
Q71 Did you see, or were you given, any information explaining how to complain to the hospital about the care you received?	1.8	0.8	4.3	409	1.5	
Respect and dignity						
S11 Section score	8.9	8.4	9.7			
Q67 Overall, did you feel you were treated with respect and dignity while you were in the hospital?	8.9	8.4	9.7	526	8.8	
Overall experience						
S12 Section score	8.0	7.4	9.2			
Q68 Overall...	8.0	7.4	9.2	507	7.7	↑

↑ or ↓

Indicates where 2019 score is significantly higher or lower than 2018 score
(NB: No arrow reflects no statistically significant change)
Where no score is displayed, no 2018 data is available.

Adult Inpatient Survey 2019

West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Background information

The sample	This trust	All trusts
Number of respondents	541	76915
Response Rate (percentage)	45	45
Demographic characteristics	This trust	All trusts
Gender (percentage)	(%)	(%)
Male	47	48
Female	53	52
Age group (percentage)	(%)	(%)
Aged 16-35	5	5
Aged 36-50	9	8
Aged 51-65	20	22
Aged 66 and older	66	65
Ethnic group (percentage)	(%)	(%)
White	90	92
Multiple ethnic groups	1	1
Asian or Asian British	4	2
Black or Black British	2	1
Arab or other ethnic group	0	0
Not known	3	3
Religion (percentage)	(%)	(%)
No religion	17	18
Buddhist	0	0
Christian	67	74
Hindu	3	1
Jewish	3	0
Muslim	2	2
Sikh	0	0
Other religion	3	1
Prefer not to say	3	3
Sexual orientation (percentage)	(%)	(%)
Heterosexual/straight	92	93
Gay/lesbian	1	1
Bisexual	0	1
Other	2	1
Prefer not to say	5	4