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## Report ranks Riverside Walter Reed highest for efficiency

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Riverside Walter Reed Hospital scored highest for efficiency among eastern Virginia hospitals, according to a new report.

The Virginia Health Information's 2010 Industry Report compares dollars paid per admission, hours per admission and charity care and assigns a comprehensive efficiency and productivity score to the state's hospitals. The efficiency ranking considers cost, productivity and utilization. It examines how hospitals are stewards of the health-care dollar.

"This score, when examined in conjunction with data on health care quality, can help businesses and individuals know the value of their health care dollar in different treatment venues," said Michael Lundberg, executive director of the nonprofit Virginia Health Information.

Riverside Walter Reed in Gloucester scored 1.3 in efficiency. The lower the score, the better, according to the report. Bon Secours Mary Immaculate Hospital in Newport News came in second at 1.6. Sentara CarePlex Hospital in Hampton scored 1.8, Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News scored 2.2, and Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center scored 2.7. Southampton Memorial Hospital (the only for-profit hospital in the area) came in lowest at 3.8.

This is the second consecutive year that Riverside Walter Reed made the top 10 list of hospitals for efficiency. Sentara Bayside Hospital in Virginia Beach and Sentara Leigh Hospital in Norfolk also made the top 10 for the second consecutive year.

Sentara Bayside had the highest percentage of charity care, at more than 21 percent, followed by Riverside Tappahannock Hospital on the Middle Peninsula at 20 percent. Rappahannock General Hospital on the Northern Neck had the lowest percentage of charity care at 7 percent.

Dollars paid per admission was highest at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, at \$9,642. Riverside Walter Reed was lowest at \$6,342.

Hours per admission — the average number of hours the hospital paid to employees or an agency per admission,

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adjusted for illness severity — was lowest at Riverside Walter Reed, at 61. It was highest at Rappahannock General Hospital at 137, according to the report.

Health care efficiency and controlling costs is becoming more important under health care reform, said Stephen Porter, administrator of Sentara Bayside and Sentara Princess Anne.

"It's a good measure of hospital performance, but it's not the the only measure," he said. "To get a complete picture, you would have to look at this and other reports on quality and customer satisfaction."

The report also compared nursing facilities. Among eastern Virginia facilities, Sentara Nursing Care in Portsmouth had the best ranking in terms of dollars paid per patient day, at \$110. The Newport, in Newport News, had the highest at \$239.

Consulate Healthcare of Windsor had the best ranking in hours paid per patient day, at 3.28, and Shore Lifecare at Parksley, on the Eastern Shore, had the highest at 9.38.

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## **Read the report**

Find the 2010 Industry Report online at <http://www.vhi.org>.

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