



National Inpatient Experience Survey 2019

RCSI Hospital Group

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About the National Inpatient Experience Survey 2019

The National Inpatient Experience Survey is a nationwide survey that offers patients the opportunity to describe their experiences of public acute healthcare in Ireland. The survey is a partnership between the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Department of Health. The survey was conducted for the first time in 2017 and repeated in 2018 and 2019.

Nationally, 26,897 people were invited to participate in the third National Inpatient Experience Survey. In total, 12,343 completed the survey, resulting in a response rate of 46%. 1,805 patients from RCSI Hospital Group took part in the survey.

The aim of the survey is to find out about patients' experiences in public acute hospitals and to use their feedback to identify areas of good experience, and areas needing improvement. The HSE responded to the 2017, 2018 and 2019 survey results by producing detailed quality improvement plans at national, hospital group and hospital levels. The implementation of these plans is coordinated by an oversight group, and a wide range of initiatives have already been introduced across Ireland's public acute hospitals. Some examples of these initiatives can be seen at <https://yourexperience.ie/inpatient/hospital-initiatives/>.

What were the main findings for RCSI Hospital Group?

The majority of participants from RCSI Hospital Group reported positive experiences in hospital. 81% of participants said they had 'good' or 'very good' overall experiences, compared with 84% nationally. The hospital group received scores that were similar to the national average for the 'admissions' and 'examinations, diagnosis and treatment' stages of care, but received significantly lower than average ratings of 'care on the ward' and 'discharge or transfer'. The overall patient experience rating for RCSI Hospital Group was also below average. On the other hand, significant improvements in 'admissions' were recorded since the 2018 survey.

Hospital group profile

RCSI Hospital Group is one of seven hospital groups¹ in Ireland. Hospital groups were established in Ireland in 2013 with the aim of integrating hospital networks in order to provide safer, more effective care. The purpose of this report is to compare the results for this hospital group with other groups, and also to explore variation in

¹ The Children's Hospital Group is the seventh hospital group in Ireland. Paediatric hospitals and children's services were not surveyed on this occasion.

results between the individual hospitals within the group. Specific reports on the results of the National Inpatient Experience Survey for all participating hospitals, and associated quality improvement plans are available at <https://yourexperience.ie/>.

The people who responded to the National Inpatient Experience Survey were admitted to a hospital in one of the six hospital groups listed below:

South/South West Hospital Group	
Ireland East Hospital Group	
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) Hospital Group	
University of Limerick (UL) Hospitals	
Saolta University Health Care Group	
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group	

Five hospitals in RCSI Hospital Group took part in the survey (Table 1). The hospitals in this group provide emergency as well as elective inpatient care. Participants were asked to answer questions across each stage of care; however, people who were not admitted through an emergency department did not answer the questions on admissions.

Table 1. Profile of hospitals in RCSI Hospital Group

Hospital Name	Number of inpatient beds*	Number of eligible discharges	Number of participants	Response rate	Emergency department
Connolly Hospital	243	859	339	40%	Yes
Cavan and Monaghan Hospital Group	242	604	268	45%	Yes
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital**	393	1049	469	45%	Yes
Louth County Hospital**	2	29	10	34%	No
Beaumont Hospital	671	1709	719	43%	Yes

* Refers to the number of inpatient beds in May 2019.

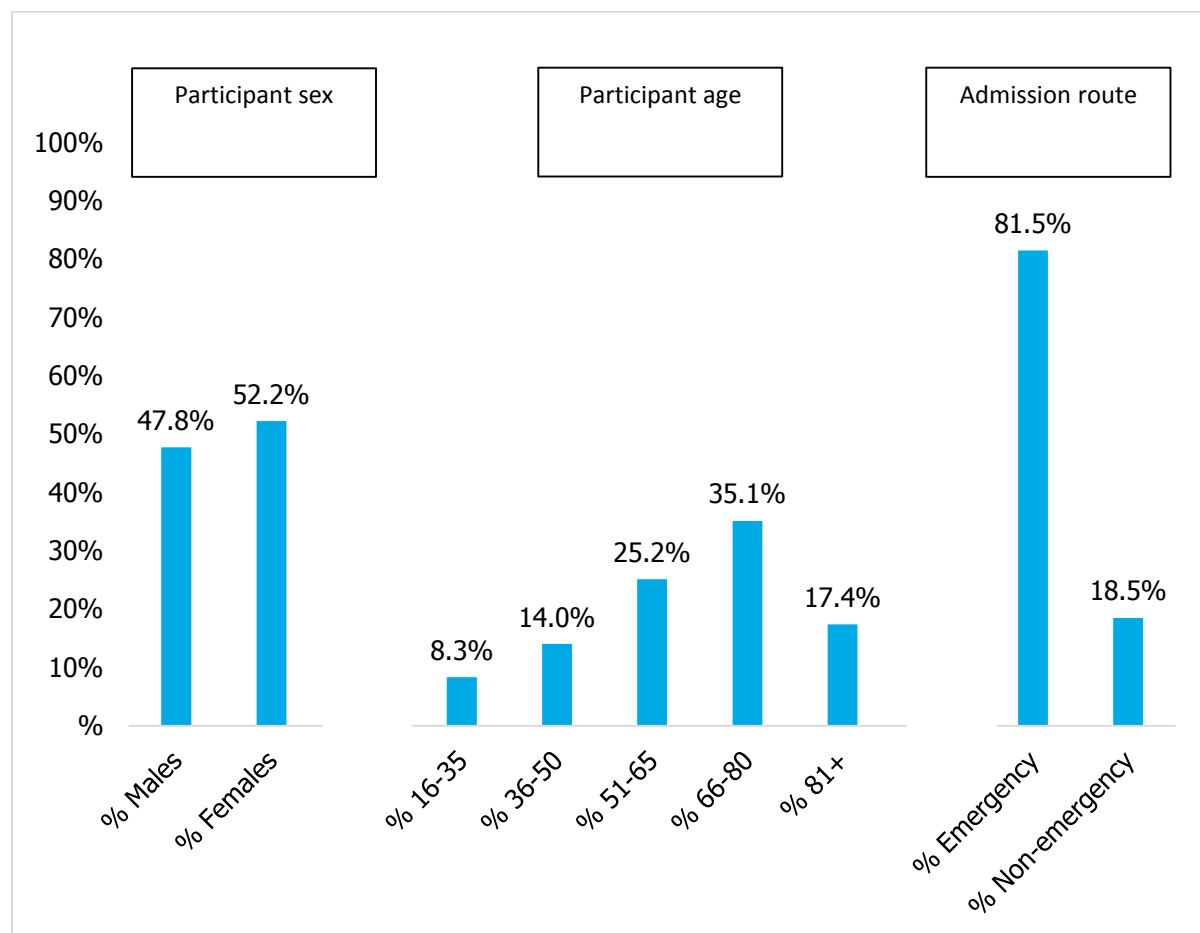
** Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda and Louth County Hospital in Dundalk asked for their results to be merged to ensure a sufficient response rate was achieved.

Who took part in the survey?

4,250 people discharged from a hospital in RCSI Hospital Group during the month of May 2019 were invited to participate in the survey. 1,805 people completed the

survey, achieving a response rate of 43%. 47.8% of participants were male and 52.2% were female. 1,471 respondents (81.5%) said that their stay in hospital was due to an emergency. Figure 1 below provides information on the respondents who took part in the survey from RCSI Hospital Group.

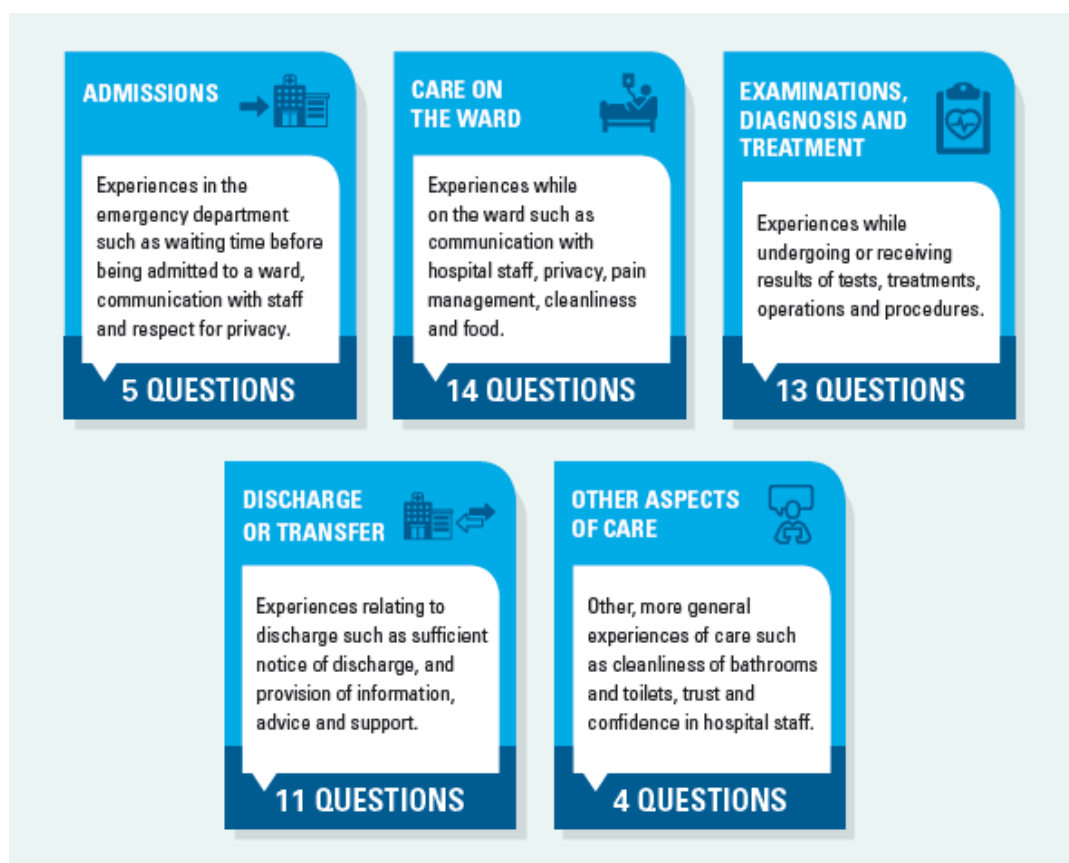
Figure 1. Participants from RCSI Hospital Group by sex, age group and admission route



Survey results for the stages of care along the patient journey

The National Inpatient Experience Survey 2019 follows the patient journey through hospital from admission to discharge. The 2019 questionnaire is available to download from <https://yourexperience.ie/inpatient/about-the-survey/survey-model/>.

The survey questions are grouped into five stages along the patient journey:



Interpreting the results for the stages of care

Scores out of 10 are given for each question belonging to a stage of care or a stage as whole. A score of 0 indicates a very negative experience and a score of 10 indicates a very positive experience. Sometimes questions are described as high- or low-ranking questions. These are questions with the highest or lowest score when compared to a set of questions.

Statistical tests were carried out to examine if there were significant differences in patient experience between 2018 and 2019, between a hospital and its group, or between a group and the national average. For further information on the analyses please consult Appendix 3 of the 2019 national report, available from <https://yourexperience.ie/>.

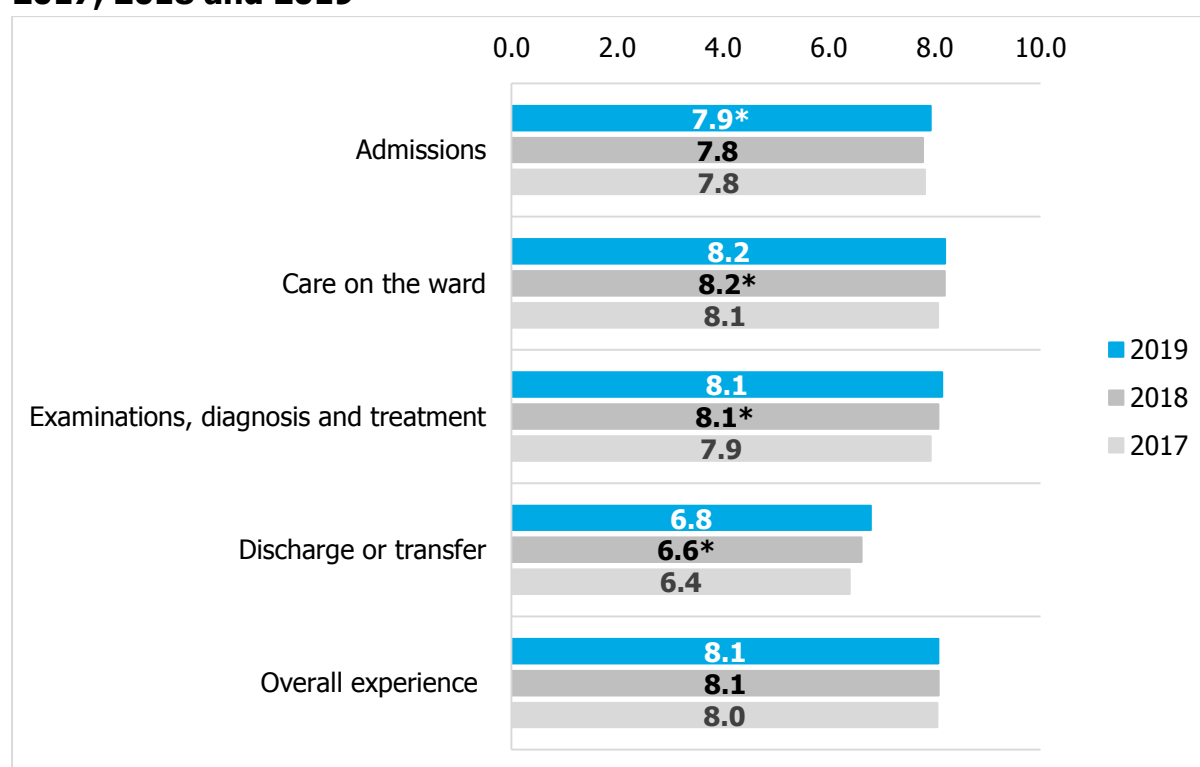
Changes in patient experience over time

The 2019 stage of care scores were generally similar to last year. However, there was a statistically-significant improvement in patient ratings of the 'admissions' stage of care.

Figure 2 shows a comparison of scores for individual stages of care.

It is important that these changes are interpreted with caution as scores will naturally vary from year to year for a variety of reasons. Several rounds of survey data will be required before meaningful trends and changes in patient experience can be accurately identified.

Figure 2. Comparison of stage of care scores² for RCSI Hospital Group for 2017, 2018 and 2019



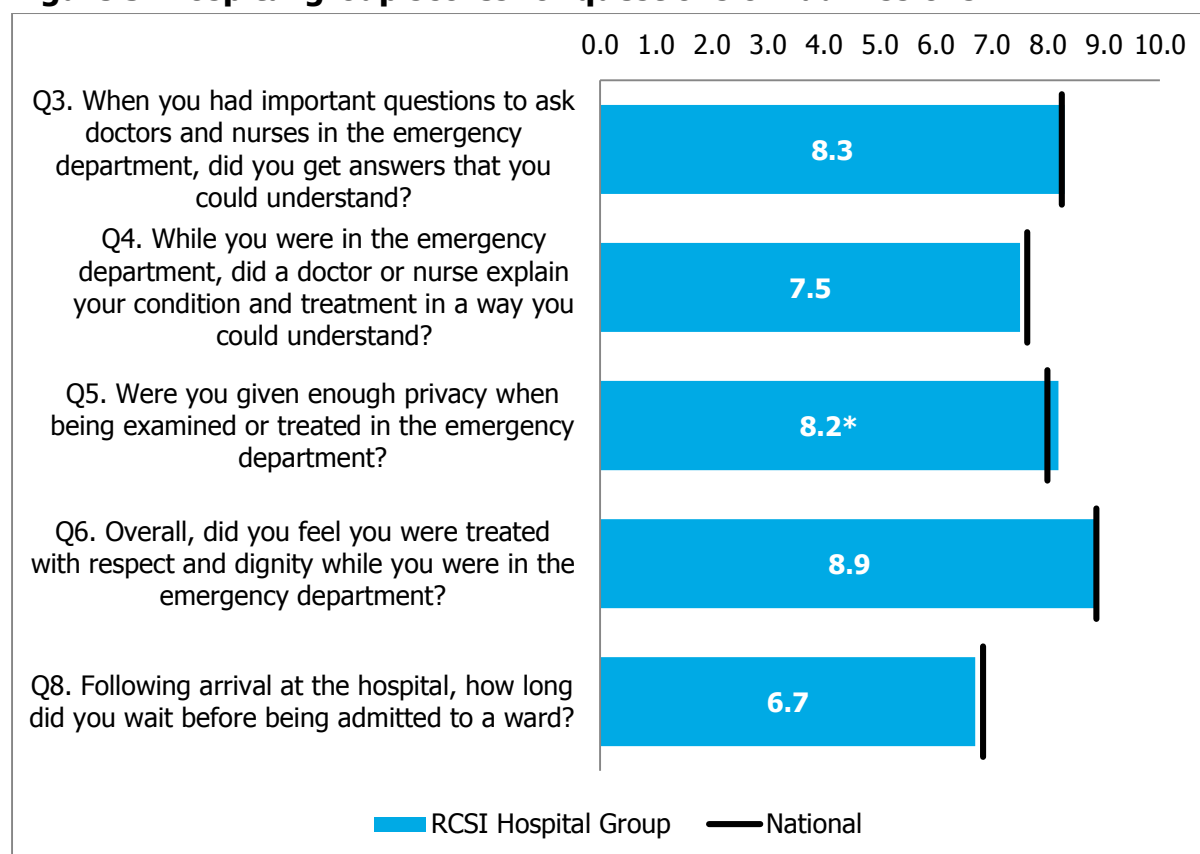
*Denotes a statistically significant difference from the previous year

² Scores for the stages of care were constructed by calculating the average scores for all the questions belonging to that stage.

Admissions

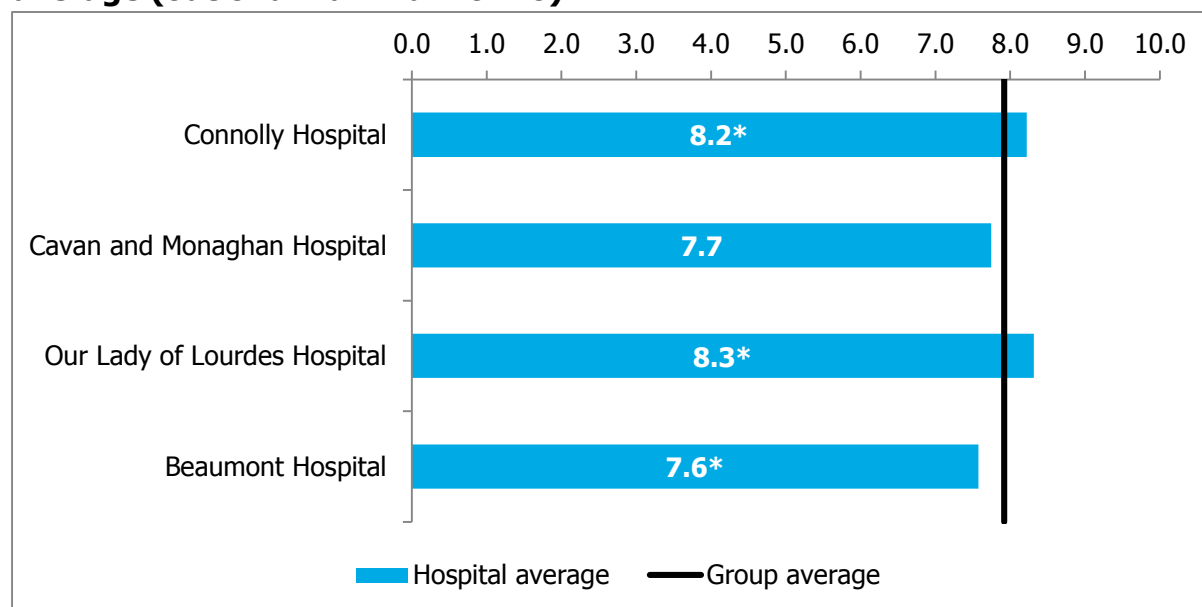
Figure 3 shows the hospital group scores for questions on this stage of care. Figure 4 compares 'admissions' scores for the hospitals of RCSI Hospital Group with the group average. Figure 5 compares the six hospital group scores with the national average.

Figure 3. Hospital group scores for questions on 'admissions'



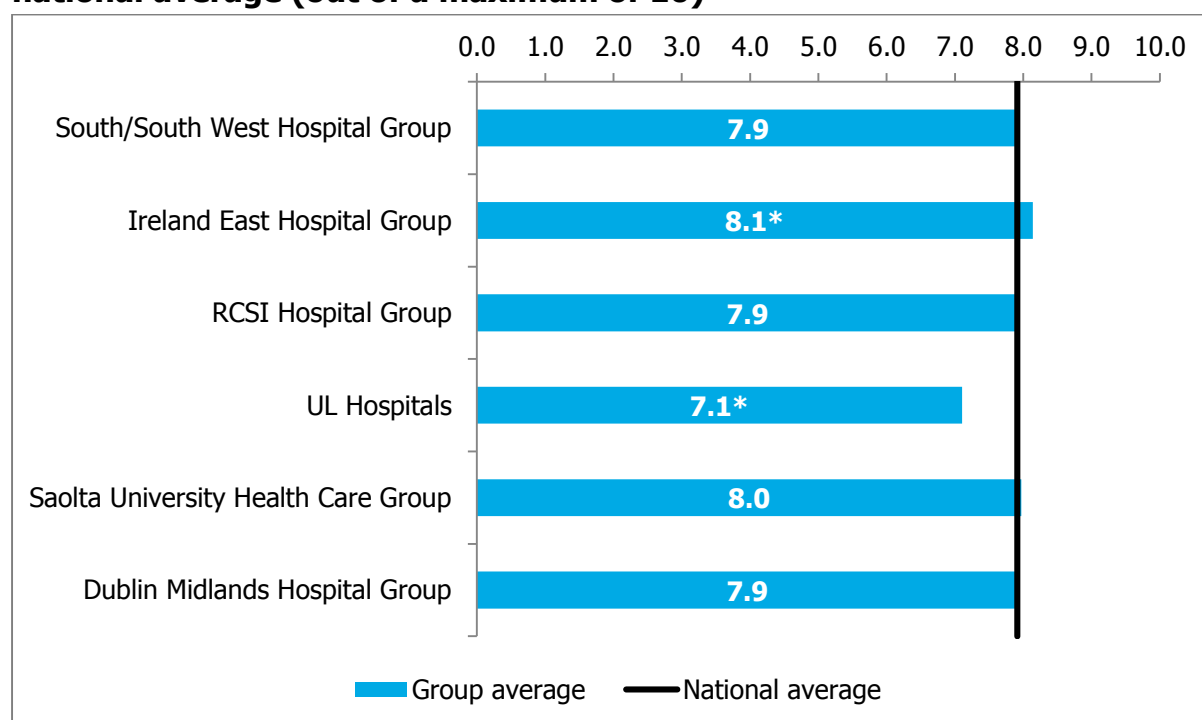
*Denotes a statistically significant difference from the national average

Figure 4. Comparison of hospital scores for 'admissions' with the group average (out of a maximum of 10)



*Denotes a statistically significant difference from the group average

Figure 5. Comparison of hospital group scores for 'admissions' with the national average (out of a maximum of 10)



* Denotes a statistically significant difference from the national average

Figure 6 shows emergency department waiting times, as reported by patients, at the national and hospital group levels. Figure 7 compares the waiting times for the six participating hospital groups.

Figure 6. Patient-reported emergency department waiting times for hospitals of RCSI Hospital Group and nationally

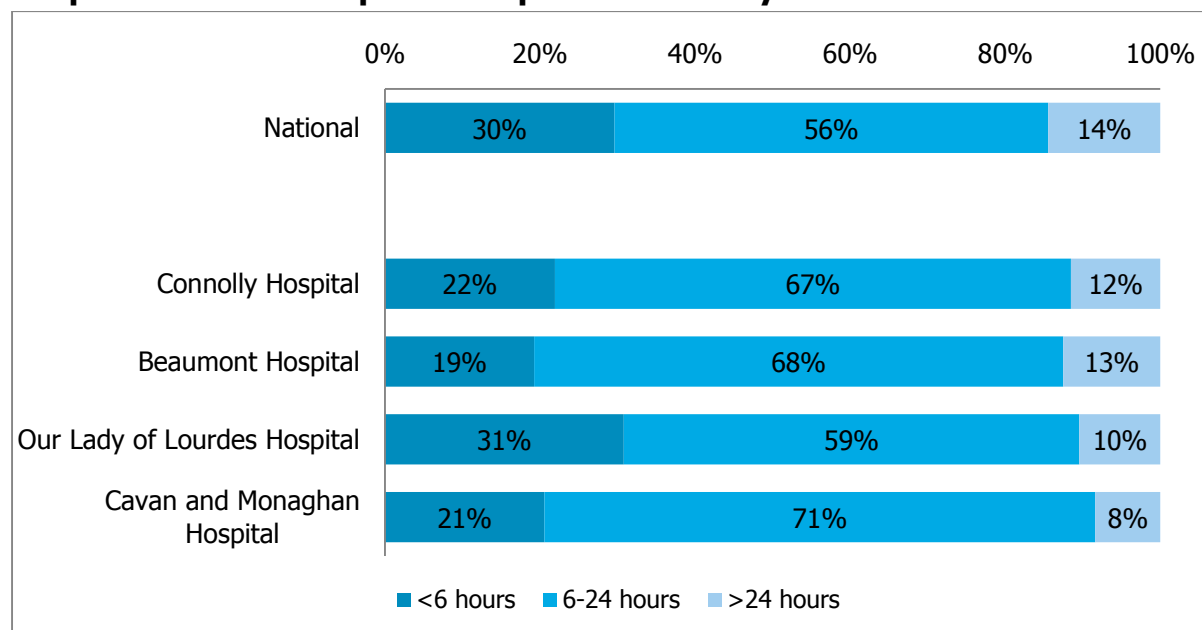
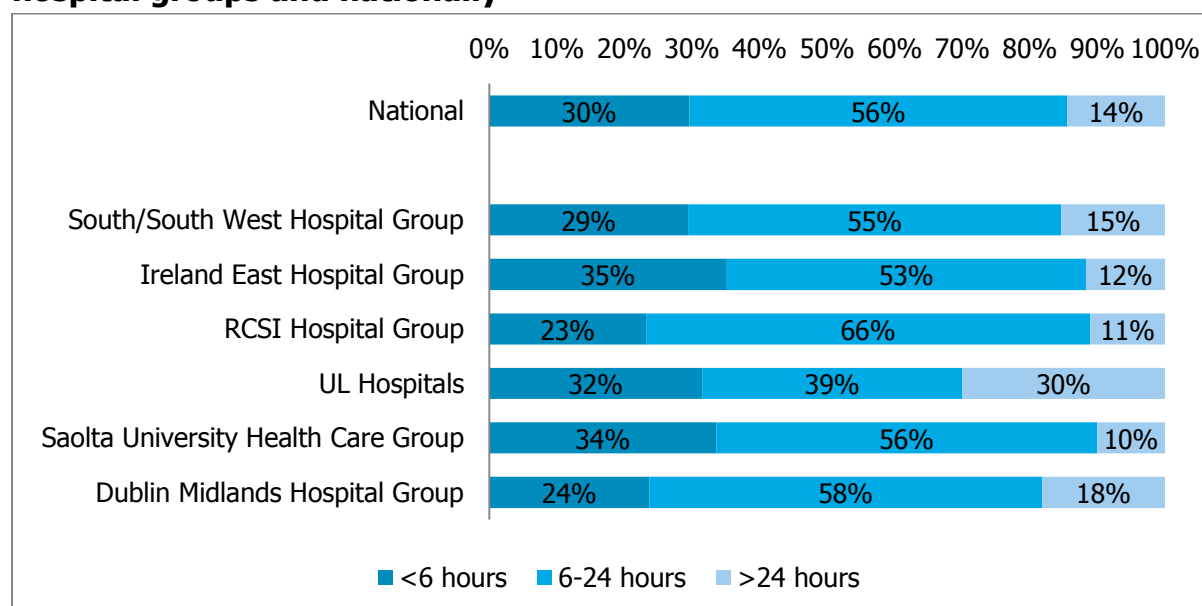


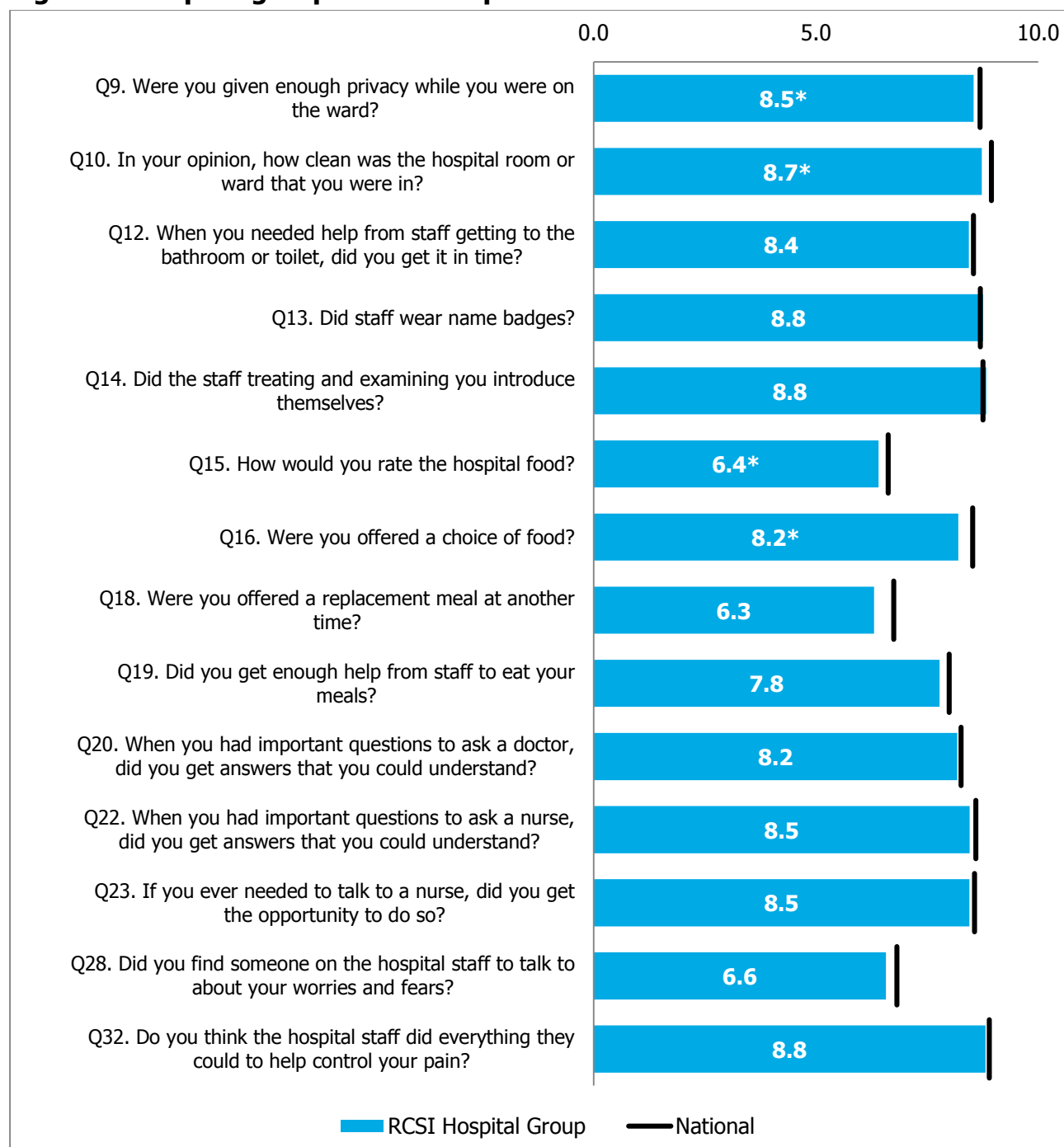
Figure 7. Patient-reported emergency department waiting times for hospital groups and nationally



Care on the ward

Figure 8 shows the hospital group scores for questions on 'care on the ward'. Figure 9 compares the 'care on the ward' scores for the hospitals of RCSI Hospital Group with the group average. Figure 10 compares the six hospital group scores with the national average.

Figure 8. Hospital group scores for questions on 'care on the ward'



*Denotes a statistically significant difference from the national average

Figure 9. Comparison of hospital scores for care on the ward with the group average (out of a maximum of 10)

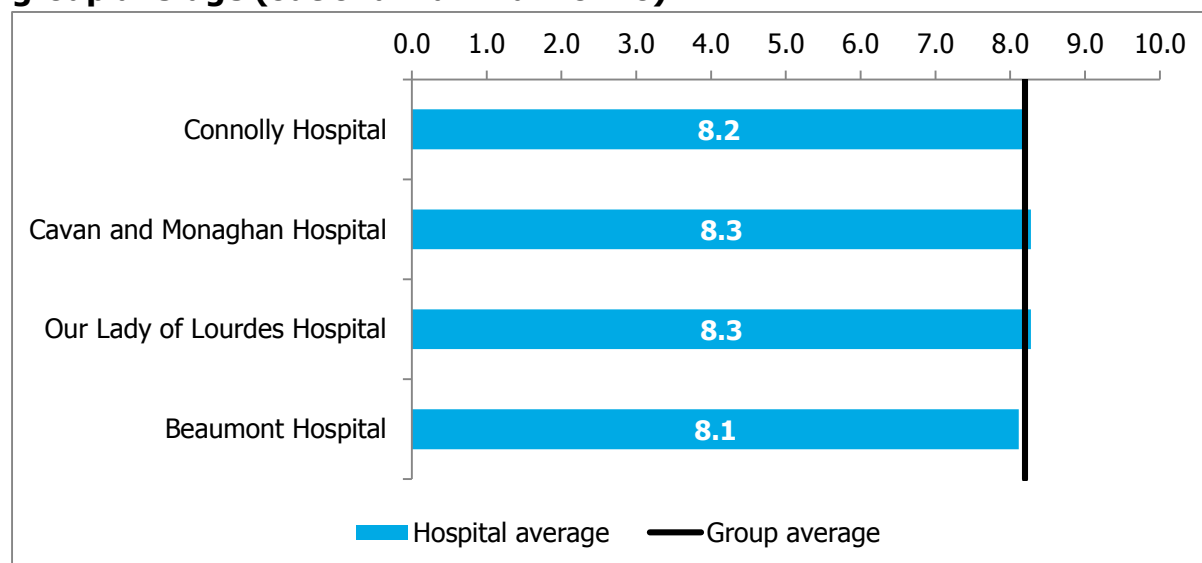
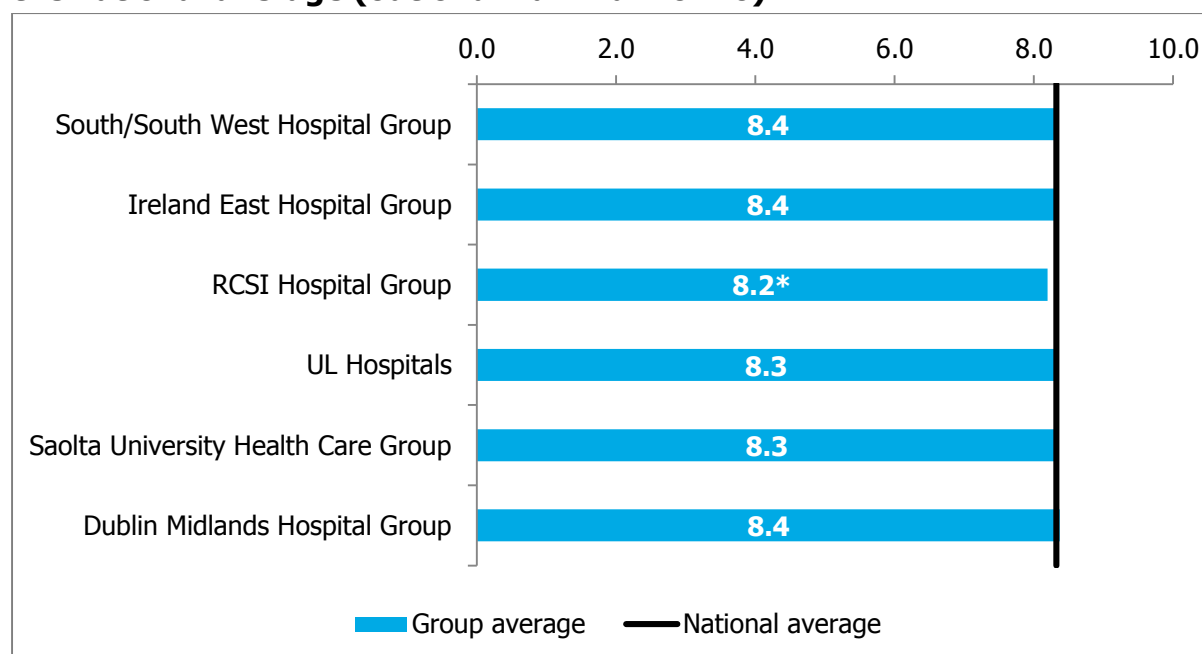


Figure 10. Comparison of hospital group scores for care on the ward with the national average (out of a maximum of 10)



* Denotes a statistically significant difference from the national average

Examinations, diagnosis and treatment

Figure 11 shows the hospital group scores for questions on 'examinations, diagnosis and treatment'. Figure 12 compares the 'examinations, diagnosis and treatment' scores for the hospitals of the RCSI Hospital Group with the group average. Figure 13 compares the six hospital group scores with the national average.

Figure 11. Hospital group scores for questions on 'examinations, diagnosis and treatment'

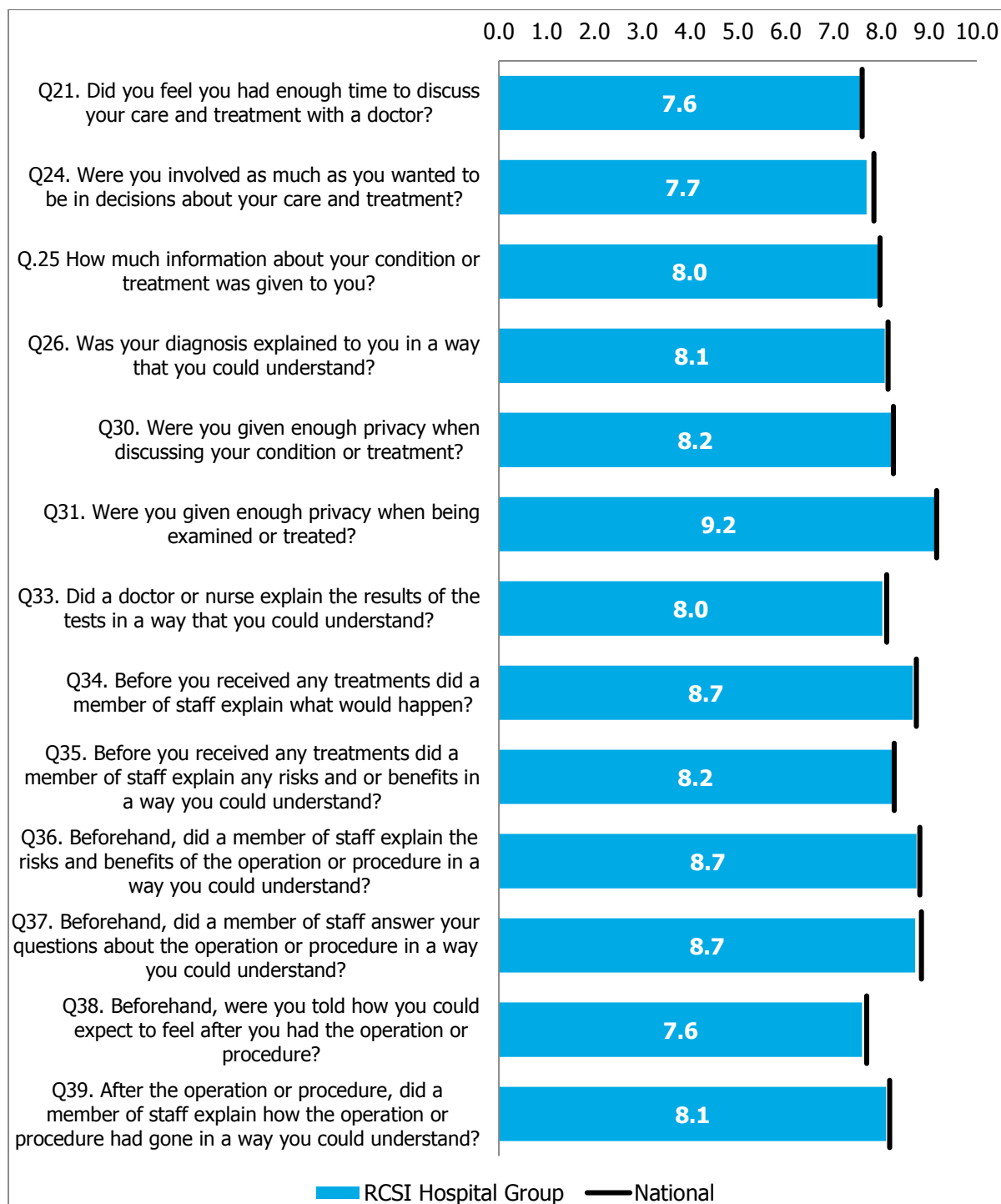


Figure 12. Comparison of hospital scores for 'examinations, diagnosis and treatment' with the group average (out of a maximum of 10)

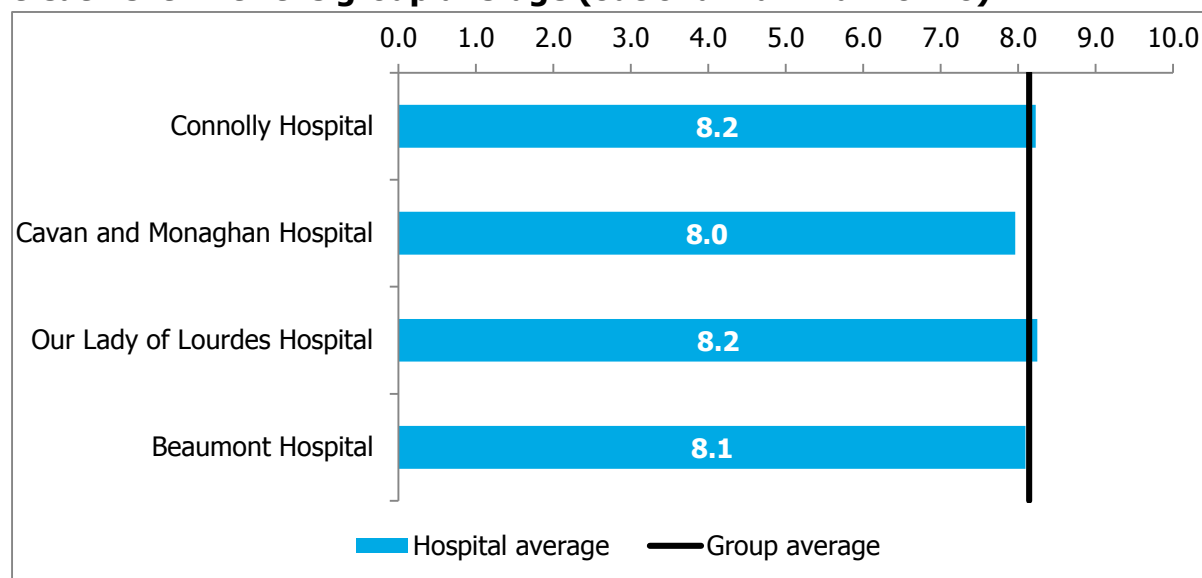
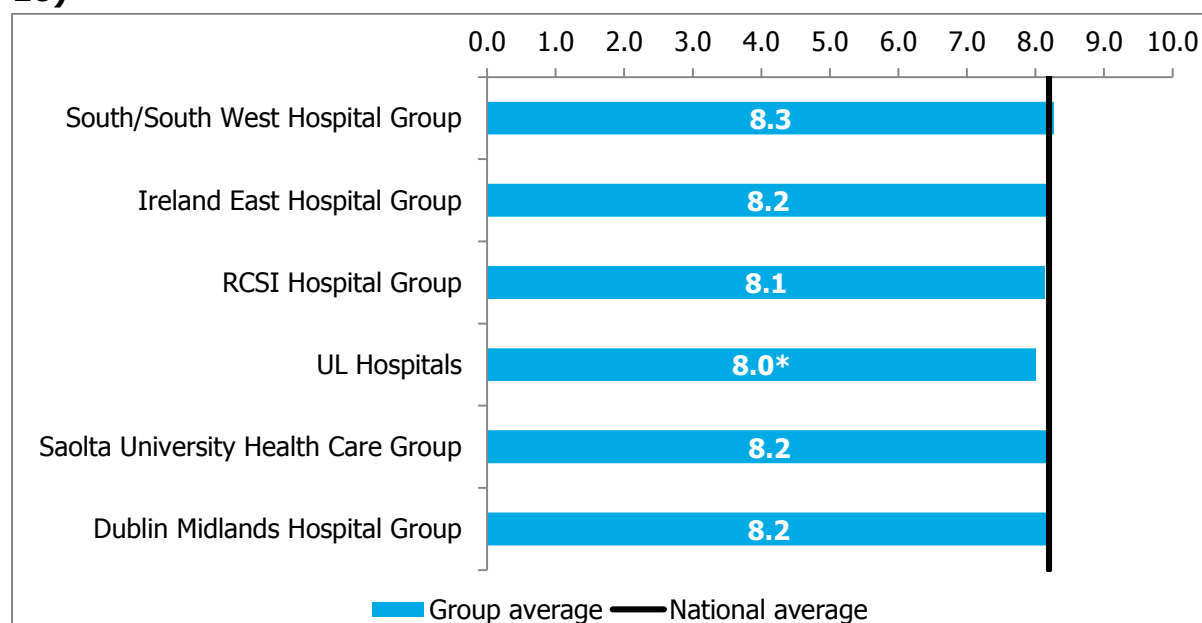


Figure 13. Comparison of hospital group scores for 'examinations, diagnosis and treatment' with the national average (out of a maximum of 10)

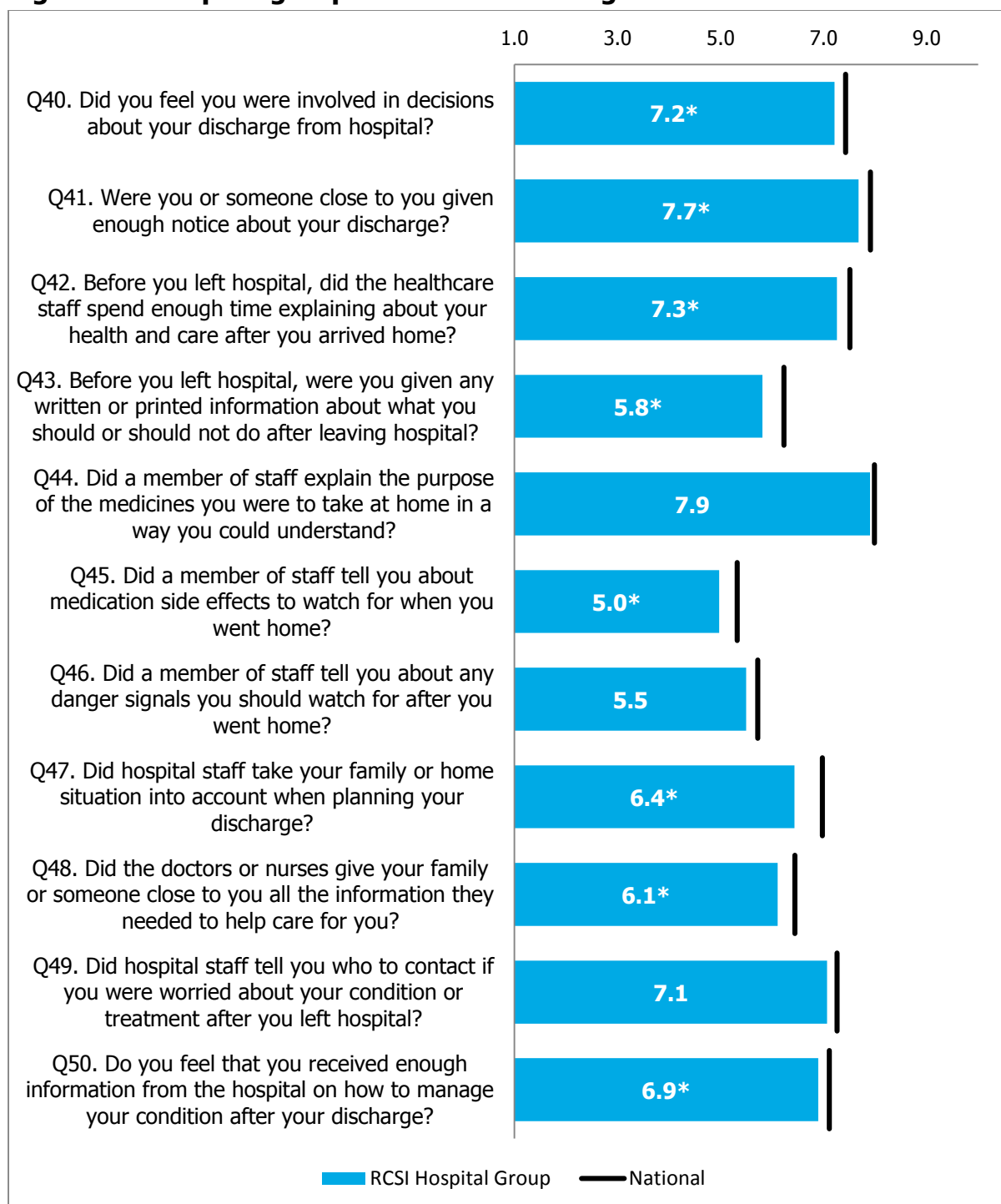


*Denotes a statistically significant difference from the national average

Discharge or transfer

Figure 14 shows the hospital group scores for questions on 'discharge or transfer'. Figure 15 compares the 'discharge or transfer' scores for the hospitals of RCSI Hospital Group with the group average. Figure 16 compares the six hospital group scores with the national average.

Figure 14. Hospital group scores for 'discharge or transfer'



* Denotes a statistically significant difference from the national average

Figure 15. Comparison of hospital scores for 'discharge or transfer' with the group average (out of a maximum of 10)

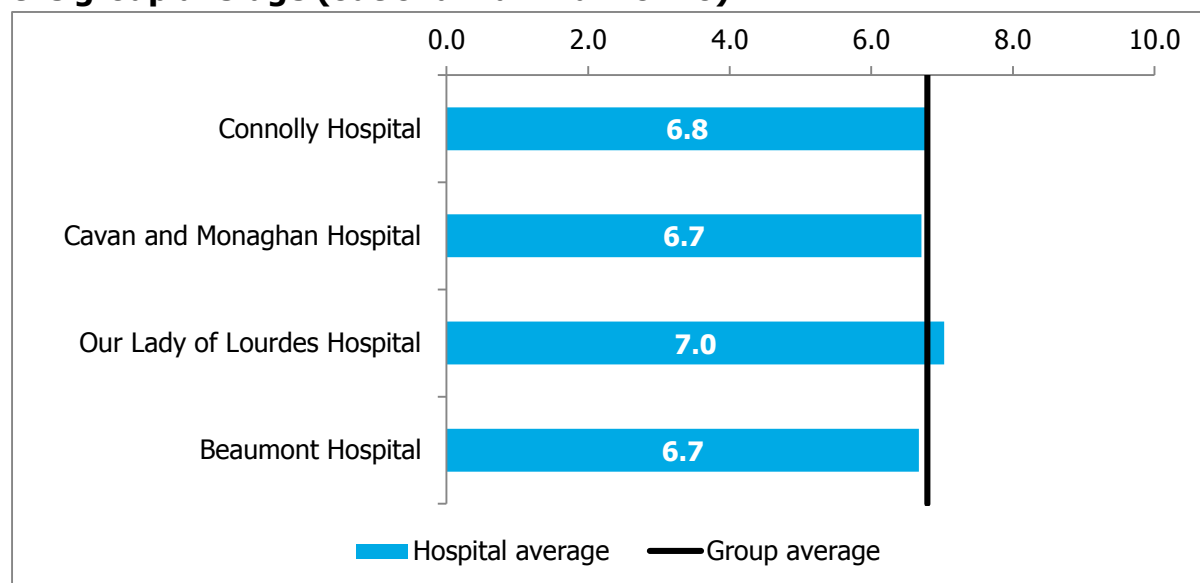
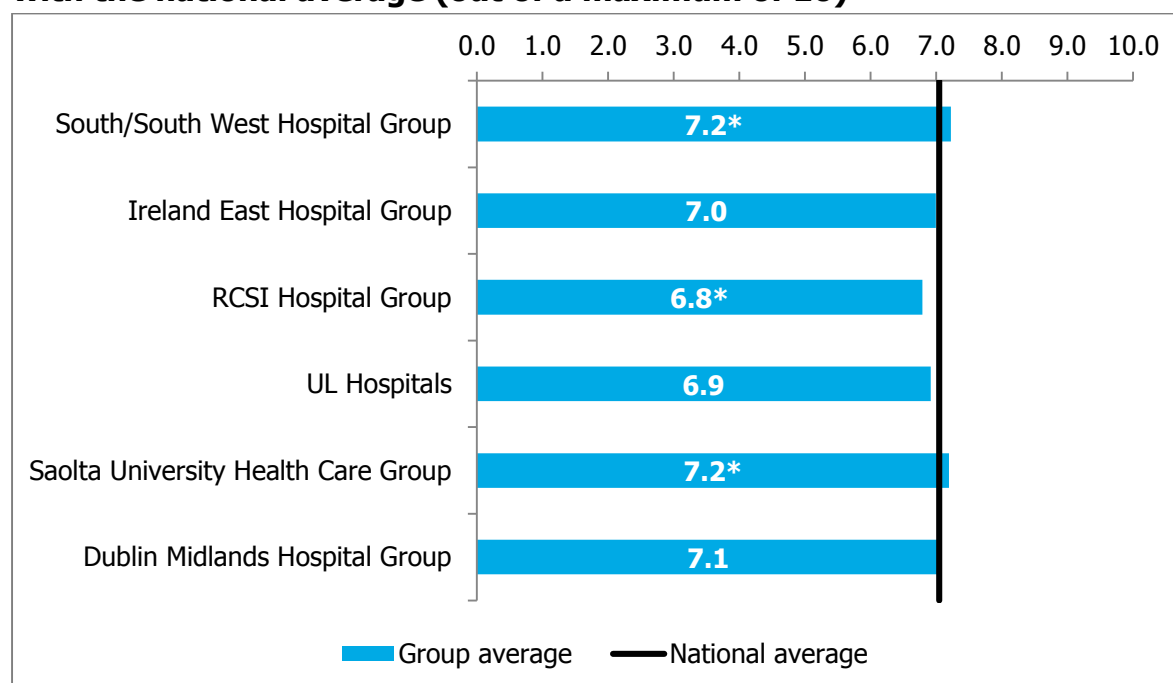


Figure 16. Comparison of hospital group scores for 'discharge or transfer' with the national average (out of a maximum of 10)

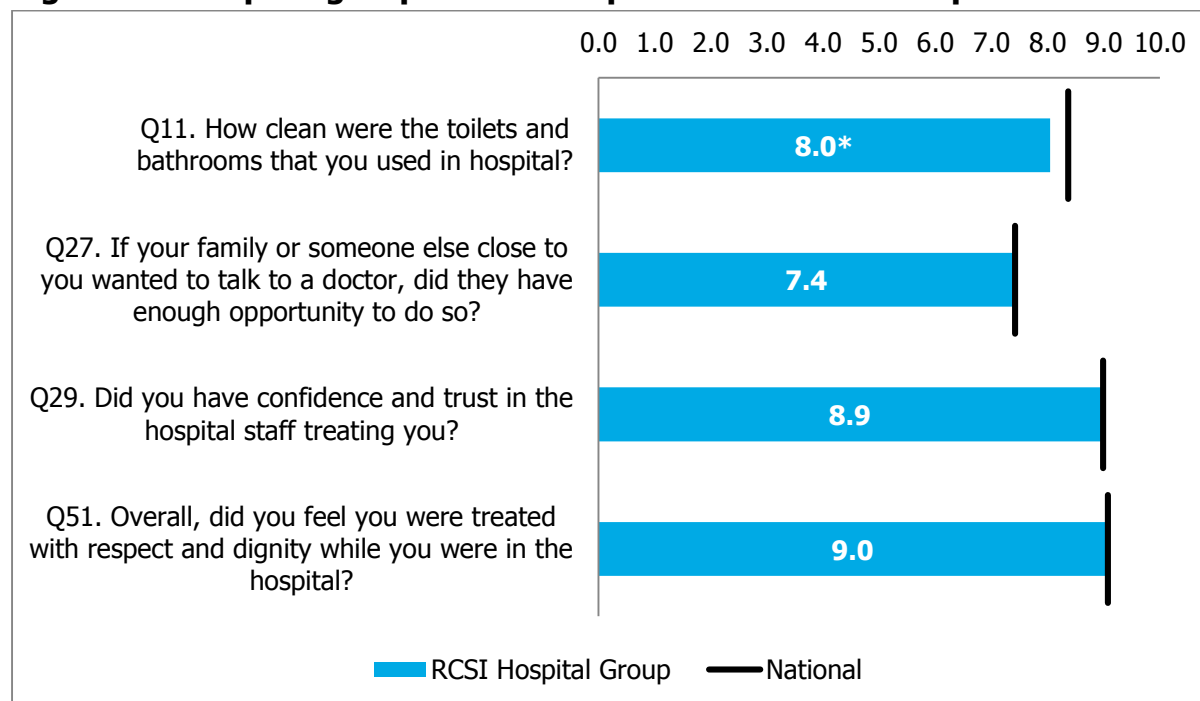


*Denotes a statistically significant difference from the national average

Other aspects of care

Figure 17 shows the hospital group scores for questions on 'other aspects of care'.

Figure 17. Hospital group scores for questions on 'other aspects of care'



*Denotes a statistically significant difference from the national average

Overall experience

Respondents were asked to rate their overall hospital experience on a scale from 0 to 10, with 10 being the most positive experience, and 0 the most negative experience. 51% of participants from the RCSI Hospital Group rated their overall experience as very good, which is below the national figure of 56%.

Figure 18 compares the overall ratings of hospital experience for RCSI Hospital Group with the national average. Figure 19 compares the overall ratings for the group with that of individual hospitals.

Figure 18. Overall rating of hospital experience for the group and nationally

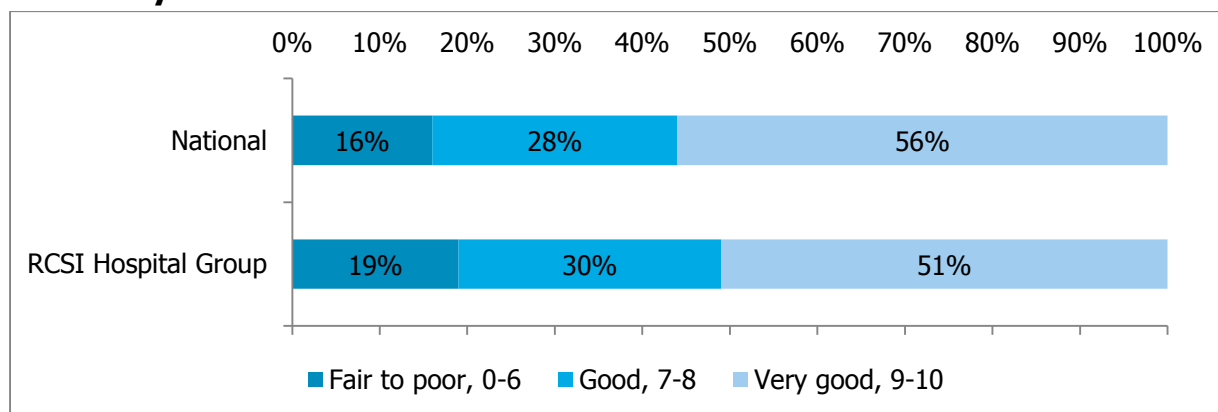
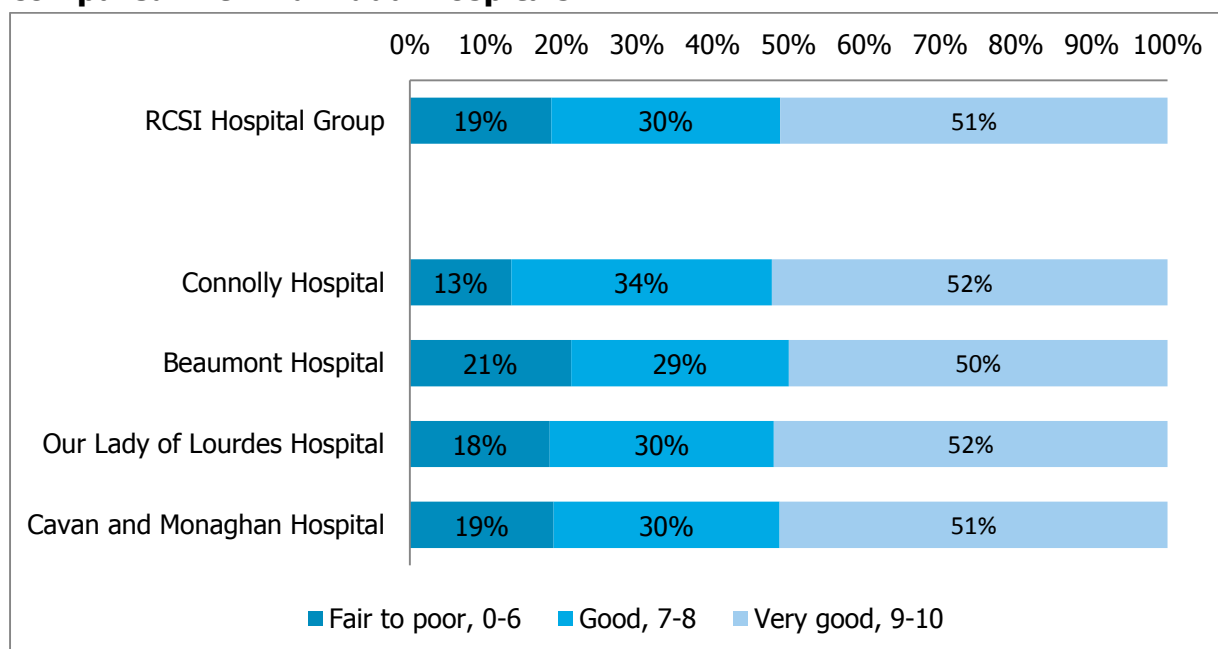


Figure 19. Overall rating of hospital experience for RCSI Hospital Group compared with individual hospitals



Areas of good experience and areas needing improvement

Improvement map

It is important for hospital groups to know if they scored above or below the national average for a particular question, and this is shown in the improvement map in Figure 20. The improvement map also shows which questions are related to patients' overall experience in hospital. Some questions had a stronger relationship with overall experience than others.

For example, Question 51, which asked patients if they were treated with respect and dignity, had a strong relationship with overall experience. This means that patients who said they were treated with respect and dignity were very likely to give a positive rating of their overall experience. Patients who felt they were not treated with respect and dignity tended to give more negative ratings of their overall experience.

Other questions had a weaker relationship with overall experience – this means that patients' experiences in these areas had little bearing on how they rated their overall experience. An example is Question 8, which asked patients how long they waited before being admitted to a ward following arrival at the hospital. The relationship between waiting times and patients' ratings of their overall experience was weak. This means that even if a patient was admitted quickly, they may have given negative ratings of their overall experience, or if they waited longer before being admitted, patients may still have given positive ratings of their overall experience.

It is useful for hospital groups to know which questions strongly relate to their patients' overall experience as these are the areas on which they should focus their improvement efforts.

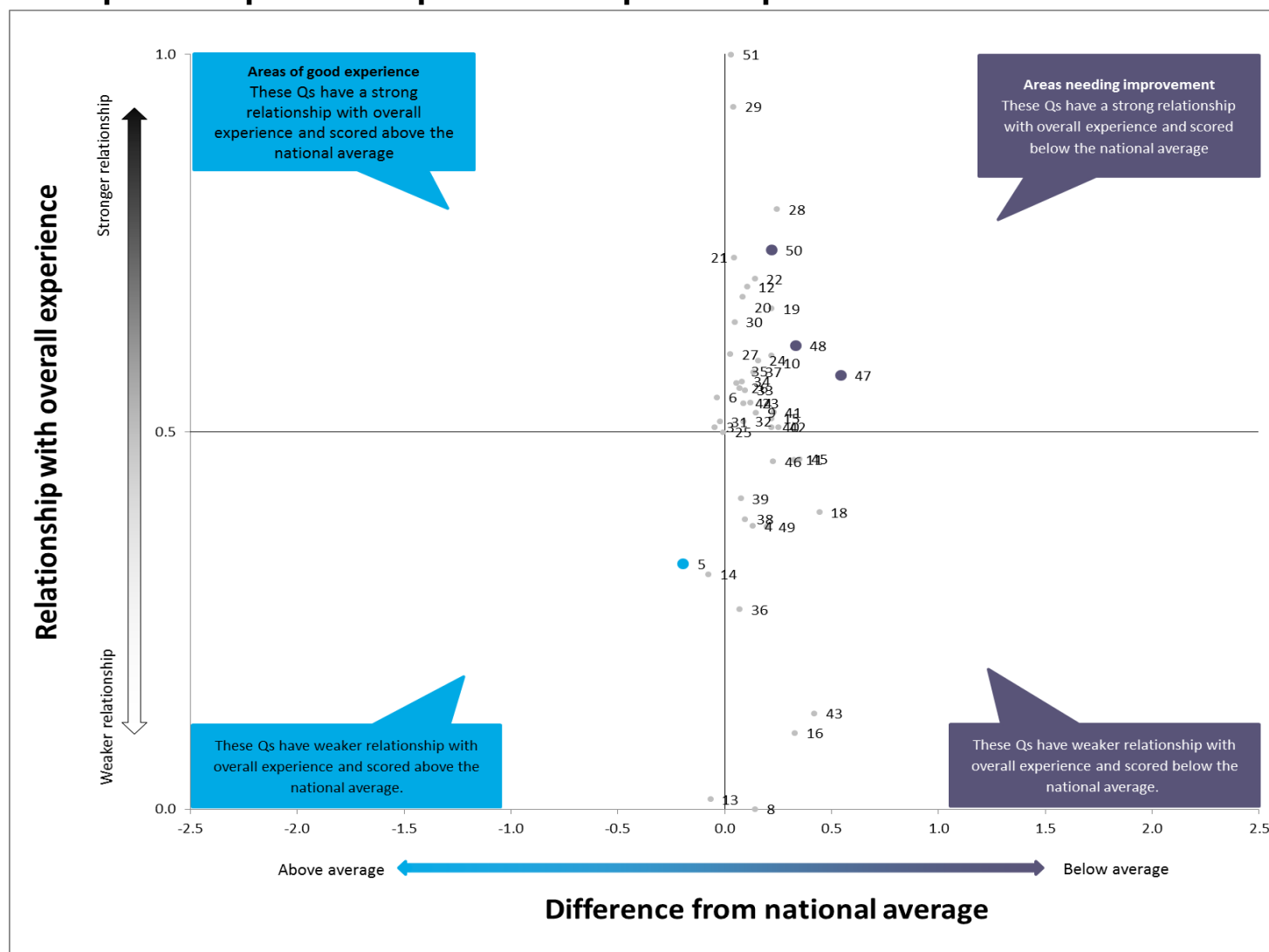
In Figure 20, each dot shows a specific survey question for RCSI Hospital Group. Questions at the top of the graph are strongly related to overall experience, while those at the bottom have a weaker relationship. Questions to the right of the graph scored below the national average, while those on the left scored above it.

Questions that scored significantly above average and had a stronger relationship with overall experience are areas of good experience. Questions that scored significantly below average and had a stronger relationship with overall experience are areas needing improvement.

The improvement map for each hospital group is unique and gives specific information on where a hospital group is doing well, and areas where improvements are needed. More information on the science behind the improvement map is

available below. An interactive version of the improvement map is also available at <http://yourexperience.ie/> along with guidance on how to interpret it.

Figure 20. Overall patient experience map for RCSI Hospital Group



Conclusion

What were patients' experiences of hospital care in RCSI Hospital Group in May 2019?

The majority of participants said they had a positive overall experience in a hospital in the RCSI Hospital Group. 81% of patients said they had a 'good' or 'very good' experience, compared with 84% nationally. While RCSI Hospital Group's performance was similar to last year's, there were statistically-significant improvements in average patient ratings of 'admissions'.

In terms of areas of good experience, patients generally felt that they were given enough privacy when being examined or treated in the emergency department (Q5). RCSI Hospital Group scored above the national average in these areas.

Patients highlighted a number of areas requiring improvement. Patients felt that hospital staff did not always take their family or home situation into account when planning their discharge (Q47), and that their family did not receive all the information they needed to help care for them (Q48). Patients also felt that they did not receive enough information on how to manage their condition after their discharge (Q50). RCSI Hospital group scored below the national average in these areas.

The National Inpatient Experience Survey provides valuable information on patients' experiences in acute hospitals at national, hospital group and hospital levels. The findings have been used to develop and implement quality improvement initiatives in the RCSI Hospital Group, intended to address the issues identified by patients. Some examples of these initiatives can be seen at www.yourexperience.ie/inpatient/hospital-initiatives/.