

Rating

A rating is the [evaluation](#) or [assessment](#) of something, in terms of quality (as with a critic rating a novel), quantity (as with an athlete being rated by his or her statistics), or some combination of both.

[Patient satisfaction ratings](#) are increasingly used for [hospital rankings](#), referral base and [physician reimbursement](#). As such, [online physician rating websites](#) (PRWs) are quickly becoming a topic of interest.

Hopkins et al., analyzed [physician reported industry payments](#) received by [neurosurgeons](#) over four consecutive years as defined by the [Physician Payments Sunshine Act](#) (PPSA). All [board-certified neurosurgeons](#) on three widely used [Physician Rating Websites](#) (PRWs).

[Data](#) was collected on average [rating](#), number of ratings and composite ratings. [Demographics](#), [training](#)-related and [practice](#)-related data were also collected. Each [physician](#) was identified and matched to their individually reported [payments](#) from the PPSA [database](#).

Receiving higher amounts of industrial payments had no correlation to average PRW ratings, however was associated with receiving higher composite PRW ratings ($p = 0.0389$). Higher composite ratings ($p = 0.0389$), decreasing age ($p = 0.005$), being male (OR 1.7960, $p = 0.005$), completing a fellowship (OR 1.3310, $p = 0.0085$), having a more complete profile (OR 1.1121, $p = 0.0057$) and speaking more languages (OR 1.1253, $p = 0.03802$) all were correlated with receiving more total monetary payments. Training at a top 25 [residency](#) program was predictive of being in the bottom quartile of total monetary payments received (OR 1.676, $p = 0.0002$).

Patient experience as defined by PRW ratings are likely not strongly influenced by [industry](#) related monetary [payments](#), however some relationship may exist. Further study is needed to determine the true relationship between [industry](#) related monetary payments and the [patient experience](#) ¹⁾.

¹⁾

Hopkins B, Yamaguchi JT, Cloney MB, Shlobin NA, Dahdaleh NS. Effects of the physician payments sunshine act on the patient experience and perception of care amongst neurosurgeons: A comparative study of online PRW ratings and industry payments. Clin Neurol Neurosurg. 2018 Dec 11;176:127-132. doi: 10.1016/j.clineuro.2018.12.008. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30557766.

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