

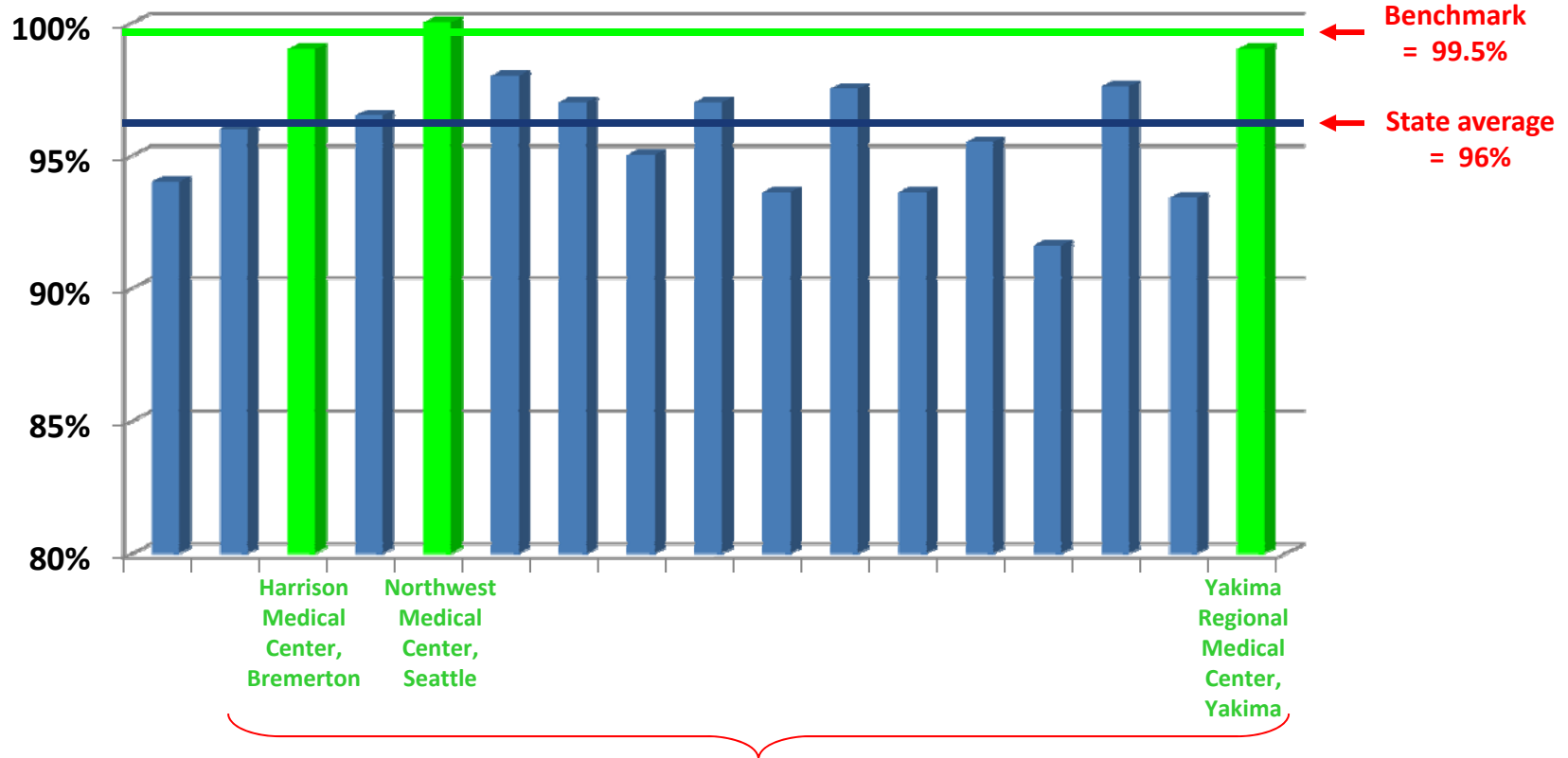


CLINICAL OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT PROGRAM  
A PROGRAM OF THE FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH CARE QUALITY

## Use of Arterial Grafting WA State “Average” vs “Benchmark”

- Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG) is a technique used to treat coronary artery disease. CABG is usually recommended for patients with disease of the left main coronary artery, or those who have blockages in several major coronary arteries, especially when the left ventricle (the part of the heart that pumps oxygenated blood to the rest of the body) is not working efficiently. CABG is also used for patients with chest pain that cannot be controlled by medication alone.
- Over the years, the best results have been found using the Left Internal Mammary Artery (LIMA), an artery within the chest wall. This artery is similar in size to the coronary arteries. It is more durable and usually stays open longer. Surgeons are finding that by using LIMA or other arterial grafts, they can decrease the patient's risk of needing repeat surgery and improve long-term survival rates.
- Many studies suggest that arterial grafting requires less need for transfusions, less time spent in the hospital, and lower rates of recurring chest pain and heart attacks; however certain patients, such as those undergoing emergency surgery and those who have had previous heart procedures, may not be eligible for this procedure. Washington's own COAP information supports these findings. On average, ~96% of potentially eligible patients in Washington received arterial grafts in 2010, though there is still some variability among hospitals.
- Individual hospital results for Washington State in 2010 range from a high of 100% of eligible patients receiving an arterial graft to a low of 91%. **Three hospitals in Washington have the highest “arterial grafting” rates and as such have set what we call a “benchmark” for all hospitals to try to achieve. These top performing hospitals are highlighted on the following graph.**

## Arterial Graft Rate: Average vs. Benchmark (CABG Only)



These 3 hospitals are the top performing hospitals in the state for this particular measure.