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For more information, contact: Carl Seitz  
E-mail: [seitzc@lvbch.com](mailto:seitzc@lvbch.com)

## Pennsylvania's Fall 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades Announced

**Bethlehem, PA, November 7, 2019** – [The Leapfrog Group](#), a national nonprofit representing hundreds of the nation's most influential employers and purchasers of health care, and driven in the Lehigh Valley and Eastern Pennsylvania by the Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare (LVBCH), announced today the [fall 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades](#).

The independent grading system assigns "A," "B," "C," "D" and "F" letter grades to general acute-care hospitals in the U.S. based on their ability to protect patients from avoidable errors, injuries, accidents and infections.

In Pennsylvania 123 hospitals were graded, and 56 earned an "A," 32 earned a "B," 27 earned a "C," 8 earned a "D" and none earned an "F." Only one Pennsylvania hospital – St. Clair Hospital located in Pittsburg – has received 'Straight As' since 2013.

"The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade offers critical patient safety information to consumers, in an easily digestible way, so that they can make informed decisions about where they seek care in Pennsylvania," said Carl Seitz, LVBCH President and Leapfrog Regional Leader. "On behalf of our members and our community we are committed to collaborating with local hospitals and other stakeholders to ensure patients in Pennsylvania are receiving the safest possible care."

Pennsylvania hospitals continue to show a commitment to safety, since the Spring 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades Pennsylvania has improved from 18<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> in state rankings of percentage of hospitals earning 'A' safety grades. With more than 45% of hospitals in Pennsylvania receiving 'A' safety grades, Pennsylvania exceeds the national average of 33% and have improved from 34% this spring.

Local hospital systems Lehigh Valley Health Network and St. Luke's University Health Network should also be recognized for their commitment to safety. Lehigh Valley Hospital's Cedar Crest, Hazleton, Muhlenberg, and Pocono campuses, and St. Luke's Hospital's Allentown, Anderson, Bethlehem, Miners, Monroe, and Quakertown campuses all received 'As' this fall. Notable among these hospitals are Lehigh Valley Hospital – Pocono which has received 'Straight As' since at least Spring 2016, Lehigh Valley Hospital – Muhlenberg and St. Luke's University Hospital – Bethlehem Campus which have both received 'Straight As' since Fall 2017 and Lehigh Valley Hospital – Cedar Crest and St. Luke's Hospital – Anderson Campus which have received 'Straight As' since Spring 2018.

The 56 hospitals that received an “A” safety grade in the state of Pennsylvania are:

Abington Health Lansdale Hospital	St. Clair Hospital*
Abington Memorial Hospital	St. Luke’s Hospital – Allentown Campus
Butler Memorial Hospital	St. Luke’s Hospital - Anderson Campus
Chester County Hospital	St. Luke’s Hospital - Miners Campus
DLP Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center	St. Luke’s Monroe Campus
Doylestown Hospital	St. Luke’s Quakertown Hospital
Evangelical Community Hospital	St. Luke’s University Hospital - Bethlehem Campus
Geisinger Bloomsburg Hospital	St. Mary Medical Center
Geisinger Lewistown Hospital	Suburban Community Hospital
Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center	UPMC Altoona
Grove City Medical Center	UPMC Bedford Memorial
Heritage Valley Beaver	UPMC Carlisle
Heritage Valley Sewickley	UPMC Community
Holy Redeemer Hospital and Medical Center	UPMC Hamot
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania	UPMC Harrisburg
Indiana Regional Medical Center	UPMC Horizon - Greenville Campus
Jeanes Hospital	UPMC McKeesport
Lancaster General Hospital	UPMC Mercy
Latrobe Hospital	UPMC Northwest
Lehigh Valley Hospital - Cedar Crest	UPMC PASSAVANT
Lehigh Valley Hospital - Hazleton	UPMC Passavant - Cranberry
Lehigh Valley Hospital - Muhlenberg	UPMC Presbyterian
Lehigh Valley Hospital - Pocono	UPMC ST MARGARET
Meadville Medical Center	UPMC West Shore
Penn Highlands Huntingdon	Washington Hospital
Penn Presbyterian Medical Center	WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital
Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center	WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital
Reading Hospital	WellSpan Gettysburg Hospital

*\*The only Hospital in Pennsylvania earning ‘Straight As’ since 2013*

The release of this fall’s Hospital Safety Grades coincides with the twentieth anniversary of the Institute of Medicine’s (IOM)<sup>i</sup> groundbreaking report, [\*To Err Is Human\*](#), which revealed nearly 100,000 lives are lost every year due to preventable medical errors. Subsequent reports estimate that number may be twice as high.

“Twenty years after *To Err Is Human*, we are still devastated by tens of thousands of needless deaths every year from medical errors,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “We are seeing progress, with 45,000 fewer deaths from the hazards included in the Safety Grade. Still, much more needs to be done. Transparency is the first step.”

Binder cited an [analysis](#) earlier this year by the Johns Hopkins Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality that found 45,000 fewer deaths than a 2016 analysis, based on the prevalence of safety problems in hospitals graded by The Leapfrog Group.

Developed under the guidance of a National Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to more than 2,600 U.S. hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade's methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

For more information about the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, as well as individual grades and state rankings, please visit [hospitalsafetygrade.org](http://hospitalsafetygrade.org) and follow The Leapfrog Group on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Journalists interested in scheduling interviews should email [Leapfrogpr@jpa.com](mailto:Leapfrogpr@jpa.com).

### **About LVBCH**

LVBCH is a multi-state, not-for-profit, coalition of employers striving to provide access to quality affordable healthcare for their employees. The Coalition's mission is to improve the delivery, cost and quality of health care in our communities through: Collective employer action; Quality and data initiatives; Value based purchasing; and, Providing forums for the exchange of information, ideas and resources. The Coalition is also a member of the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, the National Quality Forum and The Leapfrog Group. For more information, visit [www.LVBCH.com](http://www.LVBCH.com).

### **About The Leapfrog Group**

Founded in 2000 by large employers and other purchasers, The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization driving a movement for giant leaps forward in the quality and safety of American health care. The flagship Leapfrog Hospital Survey collects and transparently reports hospital performance, empowering purchasers to find the highest-value care and giving consumers the lifesaving information they need to make informed decisions. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, Leapfrog's other main initiative, assigns letter grades to hospitals based on their record of patient safety, helping consumers protect themselves and their families from errors, injuries, accidents and infections.

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<sup>i</sup> The Institute of Medicine was renamed to the National Academy of Medicine, effective July 1, 2015. <http://www.nationalacademies.org/hmd/Global/News%20Announcements/IOM-to-become-NAM-Press-Release.aspx>