



The **Business Coalition on Healthcare**

60 West Broad St. • Suite 105 • Bethlehem, PA 18018
Phone: 610-317-0130 • Fax: 610-317-0142

Employers committed to quality and affordable health care since 1980

www.LVBCH.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2014

For more information, contact:

Tom Croyle

E-mail: tcroyle@lvbch.com

Encouraging Report Shows Drop in Rate of Early Elective Deliveries LVBCH Part of National Reporting Effort

Bethlehem, PA (March 3, 2014) The Leapfrog Group announced today the national rate of early maternal deliveries dropped for the third year in a row to 4.6 percent in 2013 a significant reduction from the national average of 17 percent reported in 2010. This is the first time the national average has hit the target rate of less than 5 percent and represents the collaborative efforts of The Leapfrog Group, private sector employers and government.

“As a regional rollout organization for the Leapfrog Group’s annual hospital survey in eastern and central Pennsylvania, we are encouraged that the national rate of early maternal elective deliveries dropped for the third year in a row,” said Tom Croyle, President of the Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare (LVBCH).

“Babies that are electively scheduled for delivery before 39 weeks have a higher risk of death, being admitted to a neo-natal intensive care unit, and pose a higher likelihood of having life-long health problems. In addition, early elective deliveries represent a significant cost burden to our healthcare system.”

“In addition to the national results, I am especially pleased by the outstanding results of the major hospital systems in the region represented by our employers. All hospitals in our region that reported to Leapfrog are below the targeted 5 percent delivery rate. Further, *Geisinger Medical Center, Lehigh Valley Health Network* and *Reading Hospital* reported 0.0 percent early elective delivery rates,” said Croyle.

“I think the results show the impact public reporting can have in achieving improved healthcare results and most of our local hospital systems have responded in a positive manner.”

Rates of the early deliveries by hospital, as well as statewide averages, are publicly available on www.LeanfrogGroup.org/TooEarlyDeliveries.

About The Leapfrog Group

The Hospital Safety Score is an initiative of The Leapfrog Group (www.leapfroggroup.org), a national nonprofit organization using the collective leverage of large purchasers of health care to initiate breakthrough improvements in the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for Americans. The flagship Leapfrog Hospital Survey allows purchasers to structure their contracts and purchasing to reward the highest performing hospitals. The Leapfrog Group was founded in November 2000 with support from the Business Roundtable and national funders, and is now independently operated with support from its purchaser and other members.

About LVBCH

LVBCH is a multi-state, not-for-profit, coalition of employers striving to provide the finest health care coverage possible for their employees, in the most economical fashion. 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 Business Coalition on Health, the National Quality Forum and The Leapfrog Group. For more information, visit www.lvbch.com.