

Embargoed until 12:01 a.m. EST on Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Date: May 15, 2019  
For more information, contact: Carl Seitz  
E-mail: [seitzc@lvbch.com](mailto:seitzc@lvbch.com)

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

Bethlehem, PA May 15, 2019 – [The Leapfrog Group](#), a national nonprofit aiming to improve health care quality for consumers, employers and purchasers, announced today the fall 2018 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, 128 hospitals were graded, and 44 earned an “A,” 37 earned a “B,” 41 earned a “C,” 6 earned a “D” and none earned an “F.” Only one Pennsylvania hospital – St. Clair Hospital located in Pittsburg – has received ‘Straight A’ since 2013.

“The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade offers our community critical information about which hospitals in Pennsylvania are best at protecting patients from preventable harm. We are committed to ensuring our local hospitals offer the best and safest care to their patients,” said Carl Seitz, President, LVBCH. “We strive to work together with hospitals, local employers, purchasers, and patients to make our community the safest in America.”

The 44 hospitals receiving an ‘A’ safety grade in the state of Pennsylvania for Spring of 2019 are:

Abington Health Lansdale Hospital	Jeanes Hospital
Abington Memorial Hospital	Lancaster General Hospital
Chambersburg Hospital	Latrobe Hospital
Chester County Hospital	Lehigh Valley Hospital - Cedar Crest
DLP Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center	Lehigh Valley Hospital - Hazleton
Doylestown Hospital	Lehigh Valley Hospital - Muhlenberg
Evangelical Community Hospital	Lehigh Valley Hospital - Pocono
Geisinger Bloomsburg Hospital	Meadville Medical Center
Geisinger Lewistown Hospital	Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center	Punxsutawney Area Hospital
Grand View Health	Reading Hospital
Heritage Valley Sewickley	St. Clair Hospital*
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania	St. Luke's Hospital - Anderson Campus
	St. Luke's Hospital - Miners Campus



St. Luke's Monroe Campus  
St. Luke's University Hospital -  
Bethlehem Campus  
UPMC Altoona  
UPMC Bedford Memorial  
UPMC Hamot  
UPMC Horizon - Greenville Campus  
UPMC Horizon - Shenango Valley  
Campus  
UPMC McKeesport  
UPMC Northwest

UPMC PASSAVANT  
UPMC Passavant - Cranberry  
UPMC Pinnacle Carlisle  
UPMC Pinnacle Community  
Osteopathic  
UPMC Pinnacle Harrisburg  
UPMC Pinnacle West Shore  
Hospital  
UPMC Presbyterian  
UPMC ST MARGARET

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

Alongside its semiannual Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade update, Leapfrog contracted with The Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality at Johns Hopkins Medicine to update its estimate of deaths due to errors, accidents, injuries and infections at "A", "B", "C", "D" and "F" hospitals. Researchers assessed more than 2,600 hospitals receiving Hospital Safety Grades and found that when compared to "A" hospitals patients at "D" and "F" hospitals face almost double (92% greater) risk of death. If every hospital had the performance of an "A" hospital, an estimated 50,000 lives saved could be saved. Overall, the researchers concluded that an estimated 160,000 lives are lost annually due to avoidable medical errors that are accounted for in the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade.

"Avoidable medical errors and infections in hospitals continue to be one of the leading causes of death in the U.S.," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade provides the Lehigh Valley and all of Pennsylvania with useful, up-to-date information to further ensure safety and accountability when choosing a hospital."

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 the 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.

###