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CONTACT: **Tom Croyle**  
LVBCH  
610-317-0130  
[tcroyle@lvbch.com](mailto:tcroyle@lvbch.com)

**Jillian Laffrey**  
The Leapfrog Group  
202-292-6713  
[JLaffrey@leapfroingroup.org](mailto:JLaffrey@leapfroingroup.org)

**Ashley Duvall**  
Stern Strategy Group  
(on behalf of The Leapfrog Group)  
908-325-3865  
[LeapfrogMediaGroup@SternStrategy.com](mailto:LeapfrogMediaGroup@SternStrategy.com)

## LVBCH Announces Release of Fall 2015 Hospital Safety Scores

*Local Hospitals Receive New 2015 Hospital Safety Scores Demonstrating Key Strides in Protecting Patients from Errors, Accidents, Injuries and Infections*

**Bethlehem, PA, October 28, 2015** – The Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare (LVBCH) announced today the release of the **Fall 2015 Hospital Safety Scores**, published by patient safety nonprofit, The Leapfrog Group. The Hospital Safety Score grades hospitals on how well they protect their patients from errors, injuries, accidents, and infections. These mistakes harm millions of Americans every year, and it is estimated that up to 440,000 lives are lost each year due to preventable medical errors.

Leapfrog assigned the A, B, C, D, and F letter grades to 2,530 U.S. general hospitals in this latest update. The letter grade is based on 28 national measures and is the most comprehensive safety rating available. It uses the most recent, up-to-date, publicly available data. It is the only tool that focuses exclusively on errors, injuries, accidents, and infections. Other ratings systems look at a variety of factors to rate a hospital, such as patient satisfaction, reputation or procedure-specific outcomes. And, unlike media-run scorecards, the Hospital Safety Score does not rely on advertising, sponsorships or other mass-media concerns to operate.

In Pennsylvania, letter grades were assigned to 131 hospitals with 31 (or 24%) receiving an ‘A’, the highest letter grade. The only two hospitals in the entire state of PA that have received ‘Straight As’ since the inception of the Score in 2012 are two local hospitals -- Lehigh Valley Hospital and Lehigh Valley Hospital-Muhlenberg.

“Nearly 1,000 people die every day because of preventable hospital errors. The Hospital Safety Score should be the *first* thing patients and family members consult when faced with a planned procedure or hospital stay,” said Tom Croyle, President of LVBCH. “We’re pleased to recognize the hard work and commitment of all the following hospitals serving LVBCH employer communities that scored an ‘A’ letter grade in this latest update:

- Geisinger Community Medical Center
- Geisinger Lewistown Hospital
- Geisinger Medical Center
- Lancaster General Hospital
- Lehigh Valley Hospital
- Lehigh Valley Hospital – Muhlenberg
- Pinnacle Health at Community General Osteopathic
- Pinnacle Health at Harrisburg Hospital
- Pinnacle Health West Shore Hospital
- Reading Hospital
- St Luke’s Hospital – Allentown Campus
- St Luke’s Hospital – Anderson Campus
- York Hospital

We encourage these hospitals to continue making the well-being of their patients a top priority and that other area hospitals will follow their example,” Croyle added.



"No matter how large or small, no matter what kind of community they serve, all hospitals have the potential to give their patients this high level of safe care," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "We are excited by the success of your community's hospitals and look forward to continuing our work together in providing consumers with a safer health care experience."

The Hospital Safety Score assigns A, B, C, D and F grades to more than 2,500 U.S. hospitals twice per year. It is calculated by top patient safety experts, peer-reviewed, fully transparent and *FREE* to the public. For more information about the Hospital Safety Score or to view the list of state rankings, please visit [www.hospitalsafetyscore.org](http://www.hospitalsafetyscore.org). To learn how employers are footing the bill for hospital errors, visit Leapfrog's [Cost Calculator](#). Journalists interested in scheduling an interview should contact [LeapfrogMediaGroup@sternstrategy.com](mailto:LeapfrogMediaGroup@sternstrategy.com).

#### 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](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 Hospital Safety Score, 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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