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2016 Grades for Patient Safety Announced Now Factoring In Patient-Reported Feedback and Major Infections

*New Report Estimates 33,000 Lives Nationally Could Be Saved If
All Hospitals Performed As Well As "A" Hospitals*

Bethlehem, PA (April 25, 2016) – The Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare (LVBCH) announced today the release of the Spring 2016 Hospital Safety Scores, published by national nonprofit watchdog The Leapfrog Group. Assigning A, B, C, D, and F letter grades, the Score provides the most complete picture of avoidable hospital errors, accidents and infections that kill or harm tens of thousands of patients every year. New for this update are the grading factors in five measures of patient experience that have been correlated with the hospital's safety record, as well as two common and deadly infections, MRSA and C.diff. In Pennsylvania, grades were assigned to 132 hospitals with 33 (25%) receiving an A, the highest letter grade, meaning those hospitals are safer than others in the U.S. Two of the three hospitals that have received "Straight As" since 2013 are local hospitals -- **Lehigh Valley Hospital - Cedar Crest** and **Lehigh Valley Hospital – Muhlenberg**.

"There will always be more work to be done in our area to provide the best care for the families living in our communities," said Tom Croyle, LVBCH President. "We are so proud to work with all of our hospitals and recognize the commitment they are making to improve care. In particular today we commend our 'A' hospitals, and look forward to the day when all our community's hospitals will earn an 'A'".

Hospitals receiving an A in the state of PA in the Spring of 2016 are:

- Abington Health Lansdale Hospital
- Carlisle Regional Medical Center
- Chester County Hospital
- Evangelical Community Hospital
- Geisinger Bloomsburg Hospital
- Geisinger Lewistown Hospital
- Geisinger Medical Center
- Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center
- Grand View Hospital
- Hanover Hospital
- Heart of Lancaster Regional Medical Center
- Highlands Hospital
- Lancaster General Hospital
- Lankenau Medical Center
- **Lehigh Valley Hospital – Cedar Crest***
- **Lehigh Valley Hospital – Muhlenberg***
- Mount Nittany Medical Center
- Penn Highlands Clearfield
- Penn Highlands Elk
- Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
- PinnacleHealth Community General Osteopathic Hospital
- PinnacleHealth Harrisburg Hospital
- PinnacleHealth West Shore Hospital
- Pocono Medical Center
- Roxborough Memorial Hospital
- **St. Clair Hospital***
- St. Luke's Hospital - Anderson Campus
- Thomas Jefferson University Hospital
- UPMC Bedford Memorial
- Washington Hospital
- Wayne Memorial Hospital
- Waynesboro Hospital
- WellSpan Gettysburg Hospital

*** Three hospitals in PA have received "Straight As" since 2013**

A new report released alongside The Leapfrog Group's Hospital Safety Score April 2016 update finds that 33,000 lives would be saved if all hospitals performed as safely as A hospitals. Compared to A hospitals, patients face a 9% higher risk of dying from a preventable harm in B hospitals, 35% higher in C hospitals and 50% higher in D and F hospitals. The report was produced for Leapfrog by Matt Austin, Ph.D., director of The Leapfrog Hospital Survey, assistant professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine at John Hopkins University School of Medicine, and faculty member at the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality.

"Through their commitment to patient safety, hospitals save lives. Those are the lives of your neighbors, your friends, and your family, protected at hospitals that don't give up on the quest to be safe," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group, which administers the Hospital Safety Score. "Ultimately, we want all hospitals to be A-level, because our communities deserve no less. "We thank LVBCH for its leadership that is making a real difference."

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.

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.

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.

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. [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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