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LVBCH Responds to Latest Update to the Hospital Safety Score as Regional Hospitals Receive New Patient Safety Grades

Nationwide, Score Reveals Hospitals Becoming Safer, but Dangers to Patients Lurk

Bethlehem, PA, April 29, 2014 – More than 2,500 U.S. general hospitals received updated [Hospital Safety Scores](#) based on their rate of infections, injuries and errors – the “A,” “B,” “C,” “D” or “F” grades were assigned by the nonprofit patient safety advocate, [The Leapfrog Group](#), which represents employer purchasers of health care. Scores were assigned to 30 hospitals in eastern and central Pennsylvania, with 8 receiving an “A,” the highest score.

Hospitals earning an “A” rating were: Geisinger Community Medical Center, Geisinger Wyoming Valley, Holy Spirit Hospital, Lehigh Valley Hospital – Cedar Crest, Lehigh Valley Hospital – Muhlenberg, Moses Taylor Hospital, Reading Hospital, and St. Luke’s Quakertown Hospital.

Communities served by these facilities should be proud to recognize those local hospitals that have made a commitment to putting safety first, earning an ‘A’ in this Hospital Safety Score.” said Tom Croyle, president of the Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare (LVBCH). “Every day, nationwide, more than 1,000 people die because of preventable hospital errors – a fact serving to highlight that those hospitals striving for excellence in patient safety truly deserve to be recognized.”

Putting safety first, the Hospital Safety Score is designed to give the public information they can use to protect themselves and their families whenever faced with a hospital stay. The Score is calculated by top patient safety experts, peer-reviewed, 100-percent transparent and free to the public. The Spring 2014 Score reveals that hospitals are making incremental improvements. In fact, nearly one-third of all U.S. hospitals issued a Score have seen a 10-percent or higher improvement in performance since the launch of the Score in 2012.

“The data tells us that more hospitals are working harder to create a safe environment, and that’s good news for patients,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of Leapfrog, which administers the Hospital Safety Score. “However, we know there’s still much to be done. That’s why it’s vital that we work together to arm families with the information they need to take an active role in selecting where they receive care. Those hospitals receiving an A today should be proud of their record, their commitment to safety and the lives saved because of it.”



“We will continue to use the Hospital Safety Score in eastern and central Pennsylvania as a tool to educate employers and the public while working with physicians, nurses and other clinicians to improve patient safety,” said Croyle. “This also provides an opportunity for us to continue to work with our employer and purchaser members on contracting, value-based purchasing, benefits design and employee educational programs to spur further safety improvements in healthcare.”

Calculated under the guidance of Leapfrog’s Blue Ribbon Panel of patient safety experts, the Hospital Safety Score uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to produce a single score that represents a hospital’s overall performance in patient safety. Leapfrog’s Score is the only tool available today that focuses exclusively on errors, injuries and infections.

For more information on the Hospital Safety Score, or to find out the score of your local hospital, visit www.hospitalsafetyscore.org. A Hospital Safety Score app is also available for download.

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

The Hospital Safety Score (www.hospitalsafetyscore.org) 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.

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