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LVBCH Announces Release of Latest Hospital Safety Scores as Eastern PA Hospitals Receive New Patient Safety Grades

Nationwide 31-percent of Hospitals Score an 'A,' Continued Emphasis on Safety Needed

Bethlehem, Pa, October 29, 2014 – Updated [Hospital Safety Scores](#)– the “A,” “B,” “C,” “D” or “F” grades assigned to more than 2,500 U.S. general hospitals– were released today by patient safety advocate [The Leapfrog Group](#), an independent nonprofit organization representing employer purchasers of health care. The Scores are based on preventable infections, injuries and errors, and grades were assigned to 35 hospitals throughout eastern and central Pennsylvania, with 12 receiving an “A,” the highest letter grade.

“We want to recognize our local ‘A’ hospitals, including Lehigh Valley Hospital – Allentown, Lehigh Valley Hospital – Muhlenberg, St. Luke’s – Allentown, and St. Luke’s – Bethlehem for demonstrating they have made the well-being of their patients a top priority,” said Tom Croyle, President of the Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare (LVBCH). “Hospital errors are the third-leading cause of death in the United States, behind heart disease and cancer – a fact that serves to highlight the crucial need to put safety first in our hospitals. We hope these hospitals will continue to strive for a consistent level of safety excellence and that other area hospitals will follow that example.”

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. A full analysis of the data and methodology used in determining grades is available, as always, on the newly re-launched website, which now also includes consumer-friendly videos and tips for patients and their loved ones. Visit the site at www.hospitalsafetyscore.org.

“We want to turn patients into savvy health care shoppers by enabling them to take an active role in selecting a hospital. By evaluating hospitals based on important safety measures and grading them accordingly, we can help consumers make smarter choices for themselves and their families,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of Leapfrog, which administers the Hospital Safety Score. “Those hospitals receiving an ‘A’ today should be proud of their record, as they are helping us to raise the standards of health care and transparency nationwide. The local community should take note of that.”



“People should use every resource available to protect themselves when planning for a hospital visit, including the Hospital Safety Score. For our part, we will continue to use the Hospital Safety Score in eastern and central PA as a tool to educate the public while working with physicians, nurses and other clinicians to improve patient safety in our community,” said Croyle. “Additionally, we will continue to use the Hospital Safety Score to work with our employer members and health plan partners in value-based purchasing, benefit plan designs and employee educational programs to spur safety improvements in our hospitals.”

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 mobile 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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