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41 HOSPITALS ARE DESIGNATED “LEAPFROG TOP HOSPITALS” FOR 2007

Significant Gaps in Safety and Quality Practices Among Other Hospitals Still the Norm Hospitals Report Commitment to Transparency for First Time

WASHINGTON, DC – Forty-one U.S. hospitals have been named 2007 Leapfrog Top Hospitals, based on results from the Leapfrog Hospital Quality and Safety Survey, a rating system that provides an up-to-the-minute assessment of a hospital's quality and safety.

The Survey is the most complete and current assessment of hospital quality and safety available. In the 33 regions where Leapfrog targets hospitals for participation in the voluntary survey, 44 percent of the urban, general acute-care hospitals have responded (representing 55 percent of the hospital beds in these areas). Data is collected from hospitals on their progress toward implementing practices in four categories:

1. **Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE):** Do physicians enter patient prescriptions and other orders into computers linked to error prevention software?
2. **ICU Physician Staffing (IPS):** Are intensive care units staffed by trained ICU specialists (intensivists)?
3. **Evidence-Based Hospital Referral (EBHR):** How well do hospitals perform seven high-risk procedures and care for three high-risk neonatal conditions?
4. **Leapfrog Safe Practices Score (SPS):** How well are hospitals progressing on the other 27 National Quality Forum-endorsed Safe Practices?

Seventy-four percent of participating hospitals have fully implemented the practices in at least one of these four safety and quality categories.

The 2007 Top Hospitals list is based on 1,285 hospitals that responded to the Leapfrog Hospital Quality and Safety Survey as of August 31. Top Hospitals fully meet Leapfrog's standard for ICU Physician Staffing (IPS) and the Safe Practices Score (SPS) and either of the following: (1) Two or more of the eight Evidence Based Hospital Referral (EBHR) areas; or, (2) Computerized Physician Order Entry plus one of the eight EBHR areas. Thirty-three hospitals meet these criteria. Top Children's Hospitals fully meet the standard for IPS, SPS and the EBHR Neonatal ICU standard for high-risk and complicated newborns. Eight children's hospitals meet these criteria.

Due to significant differences in how Top Hospitals were identified in the 2006 and 2007 Surveys, the two lists should not be compared. Since Leapfrog added new measures to the 2007 survey and made necessary modifications to the Top Hospitals criteria, some of last year's Top Hospitals do not satisfy this year's criteria. The complete 2007 list and a detailed explanation of the Top Hospitals methodology and the differences between the 2006 and 2007 lists can be found at http://www.leapfroggroup.org/news/leapfrog_news/Top_Hospitals.

"Leapfrog Top Hospitals demonstrate an exceptional level of performance on quality and patient safety measures and serve as a model for other hospitals," said Suzanne Delbanco, CEO, The Leapfrog Group. "However, all of the participating hospitals deserve praise for their willingness to raise the veil on how well they perform on vital quality and safety practices."

New in this year's Survey results is information about bariatric and aortic valve surgery. In addition, Leapfrog now considers surgeon experience in rating these and the other high-risk surgeries that are part of Evidence-Based Hospital Referral. To gauge surgeon experience, we asked hospitals what percentage of their surgeons meet the expert-defined standard of volume (number of procedures done each year) for each of the EBHR procedures. Meeting Leapfrog's recommended thresholds for surgeon experience is difficult for most hospitals.

This year, hospitals also reported for the first time on their level of transparency as measured by their participation in other public quality reporting efforts. The Survey's Transparency Indicator reveals that an impressive 96% participate in at least one reporting effort in addition to the Leapfrog Survey.

The Survey results from 1,285 hospitals reveal significant findings about the state of health care quality and safety in the nation's hospitals, including:

Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE):

- Only ten percent have fully implemented CPOE (another four percent plan to implement it by 2008), representing slow progress since Leapfrog began tracking implementation in 2002, when the figure was 2.5 percent.

ICU Physician Staffing (IPS):

- Among hospitals with one or more ICUs, 29 percent enlist intensive care specialists to manage patients in the ICU, and another six percent plan to do so by 2008. This is a significant jump since 2002 when just 10 percent met the Leapfrog standard.
- Leapfrog estimates that more than 20,000 lives are saved annually based on current implementation of the IPS staffing leap; over 54,000 could be saved if the IPS standard were implemented in all urban hospitals with ICUs.

Evidence-Based Hospital Referral (EBHR):

- 32 percent have neonatal intensive care units that meet Leapfrog's specifications for certain high-risk deliveries.
- 24 percent meet the standard for bariatric surgery [new to the Survey this year].
- 7 percent meet the standard for pancreatic cancer resection.
- 5 percent meet the standard for esophageal cancer surgery.
- 3 percent meet the standard for percutaneous coronary interventions.
- 1 percent meet the standard for aortic valve replacement [new to the Survey this year].

Leapfrog Safe Practices Score (SPS):

- 25 percent fully meet the standard for the Leapfrog Safe Practices Score, which means that these hospitals have implemented the vast majority of each of the 27 National Quality Forum Safe Practices that comprise the Safe Practices Score.
- 44 percent have implemented procedures to avoid wrong-site surgeries (operating on the wrong part of the body).
- 36 percent have an adequate hand-washing policy for its employees.
- 35 percent have a satisfactory policy for preventing pressure ulcers (bed sores).
- 29 percent require a pharmacist to review all medication orders before medication is given to patients.

If all non-rural hospitals in the U.S. implemented computer physician order entry, ICU physician staffing and just five of the EBHR conditions (not including bariatric surgery and aortic valve replacement), over 65,000 lives per year could be saved and over 907,000 serious medication errors prevented (John D. Birkmeyer MD, University of Michigan, 2004). Moreover, the U.S. health care system could save approximately \$41.5 billion annually (Conrad and Gardner, University of Washington, 2005).

“The Leapfrog Group’s work over the past few years has made it easier for hospitals to demonstrate excellence in quality and safety. With more consumers using its research than ever before, Leapfrog has clearly made an impact on the health care environment and its focus on transparency,” stated Jill Berger, Chair of The Leapfrog Group and Vice President, Health & Welfare for Marriott International, Inc.

Ellen Stovall, President & CEO, National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, stated, “Kudos to Leapfrog for introducing the Transparency Indicator. This part of the Leapfrog Survey gives consumers a good idea about how committed a hospital is to being forthright about their quality and safety track record.”

The Leapfrog Group (www.leapfroggroup.org). On behalf of the millions of Americans for whom many of the nation’s largest corporations and public agencies buy health benefits, The Leapfrog Group aims to use its members’ collective leverage to initiate breakthrough improvements in the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for Americans. The Leapfrog Group was founded in November 2000 by the Business Roundtable and is supported by its members, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Commonwealth Fund, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and other sources.

Thomson Healthcare (www.thomsonhealthcare.com) provides data collection, analysis and support services to The Leapfrog Group. The leading provider of decision support solutions that help organizations across the healthcare industry improve clinical and business performance, Thomson Healthcare products and services help clients understand healthcare markets, access medical and drug information, manage costs, and improve the quality of healthcare. Thomson Healthcare is part of The Thomson Corporation (NYSE: TOC; TSX: TOC).

2007 Leapfrog Top Hospitals List

33 Adult Facilities

Alta Bates Summit Medical Center- Summit Campus (Oakland CA)
Baystate Medical Center (Springfield MA)
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Boston MA)
Brigham and Women's Hospital (Boston MA)
California Pacific Medical Center - Pacific Campus (San Francisco CA)
Evanston Hospital (Evanston IL)
Hamot Medical Center (Erie PA)
Harper-Hutzel Hospital (Detroit MI)
Henry Ford Hospital (Detroit MI)
James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (Columbus OH)
Lahey Clinic (Burlington MA)
Lehigh Valley Hospital (Allentown PA)
Massachusetts General Hospital (Boston MA)
Mayo Clinic Jacksonville - Saint Luke's Hospital (Jacksonville FL)
Mayo Clinic Rochester - Saint Mary's Hospital (Rochester MN)
Montefiore Medical Center: Moses Division (Bronx NY)
Montefiore Medical Center: Weiler Division (Bronx NY)
Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital (Saint Louis Park MN)
Saint Mary's Mercy Medical Center (Grand Rapids MI)
Saint Thomas Hospital (Nashville TN)
Sinai Hospital (Baltimore MD)
Spectrum Health - Butterworth Campus (Grand Rapids MI)
Stanford Hospital and Clinics (Stanford CA)
Summa Health Systems Hospitals -- Akron City Hospital (Akron OH)
University of California - UCLA Medical Center (Los Angeles CA)
University of Maryland Medical Center (Baltimore MD)
University of North Carolina Hospitals at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill NC)
UPMC Presbyterian Part of UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside (Pittsburgh PA)
Valley Hospital (Ridgewood NJ)
Vanderbilt University Hospital (Nashville TN)
Vassar Brothers Medical Center (Poughkeepsie NY)
Virginia Mason Medical Center (Seattle WA)
William Beaumont Hospital (Royal Oak MI)

8 Children's Hospitals

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston (Atlanta GA)
Children's Hospital of Michigan (Detroit MI)
Children's Hospital of Orange County (Orange CA)
Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota - Minneapolis (Minneapolis MN)
Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota – Saint Paul (Saint Paul MN)
Children's National Medical Center (Washington DC)
Cook Children's Medical Center (Fort Worth TX)
Miller Children's Hospital (Long Beach CA)

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