

**The Leapfrog Group**  
**Release of Updated Leapfrog Hospital Safety Score**  
**October 21, 2013**

This week, Leapfrog will refresh its Hospital Safety Scorecard with updated data from 2,542 hospitals. Just to recap some background, Leapfrog uses a group of 28 measures on which to base each hospital's grade. Of the 28 measures used to calculate the score, 15 are process- or structure-related, and 13 are outcome-based. Leapfrog uses several sources of data – the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, certain measures on Hospital Compare and AHA Annual Survey information.

The measures are not simply averaged to calculate the final score. Instead, Leapfrog says each measure is weighted on:

- Strength of evidence of the measure
- Opportunity for use of the measure
- Potential for the measure to impact the care for many patients

The numeric score is then translated into a letter grade.

The Hospital Safety Scores do not include Critical Access Hospitals, Maryland hospitals, specialty hospitals, mental health hospitals, pediatric hospitals or Federal hospitals. It also will not include hospitals missing data for more than nine process measures or three outcome measures.

The AHA staff has reached out to those hospitals who received low Leapfrog letter grades (a D or an F rating). The refreshed data might drum up some media attention, so scrolled in below are talking points that might be useful. We will also share them with the Allied public relations executive group. Please feel free to tailor to your state and hospitals.

- Hospitals were the first to provide safety and quality data to the public and have been doing so for more than a decade. We believe that hospitals should be transparent with their quality and safety information and that communities should know the efforts hospitals are making to improve care.
- Patients should use all available tools at their disposal to identify which health care decisions are right for them, such as talking with friends and family and consulting with doctors, nurses and other health care providers. The latest Leapfrog rating system is merely one tool of many patients can use when making health care decisions.
- When choosing a hospital, we encourage consumers to consider a variety of factors such as speaking with their physician about their individual care plan and by looking up safety and quality information for their state.

- For America's hospitals, every day is dedicated toward finding ways to improve safety and quality of care. The progress we're making is encouraging but there's still a lot of work to be done. Ultimately, we want to ensure that patients receive the right care at the right time in the right place. That's the mission of all hospitals.