



## Florida's Fall 2018 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades Announced

**Orlando, Florida Nov. 8, 2018** – [The Leapfrog Group](#), a national nonprofit aiming to improve health care quality for consumers, employers and purchasers, announced today the fall 2018 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades. The independent grading system assigns “A,” “B,” “C,” “D” and “F” letter grades to general acute-care hospitals in the U.S. based on their ability to protect patients from avoidable errors, injuries, accidents and infections.

In the state of Florida 174 hospitals were graded, and 59 earned an “A,” 45 earned a “B,” 60 earned a “C,” 9 earned a “D” and 1 earned an “F.”

“The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades offer the Florida Health Care Coalition information our community needs,” said Karen van Caulil, Ph.D., president and CEO, Florida Health Care Coalition. “On behalf of local employers, purchasers and patients, we are committed to working together to make our community the safest one in America.”

In the wake of the high stakes mid-term election, neither party can claim victory in addressing preventable errors and infection in hospitals. The fall 2018 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades show that 33 percent of hospitals in traditionally blue states and 32 percent of hospitals in traditionally red states earned “A’s.” As recently as September 2018, The Leapfrog Group testified at a hearing of the United States’ Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pension (HELP) Committee, offering guidance for a bipartisan approach to improving transparency of patient safety data and making progress on safety.

“The Hospital Safety Grades give the American public information they need and deserve about the safety of their hospitals. Avoidable medical errors and infections in hospitals are still the third leading cause of death in the nation, and that’s not a partisan issue,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “We commend the Florida Health Care Coalition for making this a priority.”

Developed under the guidance of a National Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign the grades to more than 2,600 U.S. hospitals twice per year. The Hospital Safety Grade’s methodology is peer-reviewed and fully transparent, and the results are free to the public.

For more information about the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, as well as individual grades and state rankings please visit [www.hospitalsafetygrade.org](http://www.hospitalsafetygrade.org) and follow The Leapfrog Group on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Journalists interested in scheduling interviews should email [Leapfrogpr@jpa.com](mailto:Leapfrogpr@jpa.com).

### **About Florida Health Care Coalition**

The Florida Health Care Coalition (FLHCC) members comprise major employers across the state representing over two million covered lives, addressing one common goal: to improve the quality of health care for all Floridians. Through educational programs and quality improvement initiatives developed by the member organizations, coalition staff, board members, partners, affiliates and sponsors, the FLHCC organizes events and undertakes projects that inform and contribute to health care quality improvement across Florida. For more information, please visit <http://www.flhcc.org/>, or find the organization on Facebook, Twitter (@FLHCC) or LinkedIn.



### **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. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, 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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