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**Lehigh Valley Ranked #1 Nationally for Patient Safety**  
*The Leapfrog Group Announces Spring 2024 Hospital Safety Grades*

**Bethlehem, PA** – The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit representing hundreds of the nation’s most influential employers and purchasers of health care, today announced the spring 2024 [Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades](#). The grades, issued to almost 3,000 individual general hospitals, reflect preventable medical errors, accidents, injuries and infections that together kill more than 500 people a day in the United States.

For the first time, Leapfrog has ranked metro areas in addition to states based on percentage of “A” hospitals. Of 381 metro areas nationally, with a population size of 50,000 and at least 6 graded hospitals, the Lehigh Valley (Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton) ranked number 1 with 72.8% of hospitals earning “A” grades. Harrisburg-Carlisle, ranked #13 with 57.1% of hospitals earning “A” grades, was also recognized among the top 20 metro areas in the nation for patient safety.

“LVBCH would like to recognize the local hospitals to which this recognition can be attributed,” said Carl Seitz, President, LVBCH. “St. Luke’s Hospital – Allentown Campus, St. Luke’s Sacred Heart Campus in Allentown, St. Luke’s University Hospital – Bethlehem Campus, St. Luke’s Hospital – Anderson Campus in Easton, and Lehigh Valley Hospital – Hecktown Oaks – in Easton all earned “A” grades. We would also like to recognize the 4 Harrisburg-Carlisle hospitals that earned “A” grades: UPMC-Carlisle, UPMC-Harrisburg, UPMC-Community in Harrisburg, and UPMC-West Shore in Mechanicsburg.”

“Ranking metro areas for the first time is exciting because it provides us more information about collective hospital safety on a local level,” said President and CEO of The Leapfrog Group Leah Binder. “Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton being ranked #1 is especially impressive. We are grateful to the hospitals in the Lehigh Valley for their excellent work and determination to keep patients safe and prevent unnecessary pain and suffering.”

In addition to issuing metro grades, The Leapfrog Group ranks states based on percentage of “A” hospitals, and Pennsylvania ranked 7<sup>th</sup> nationally with 42.7% of hospitals earning an “A” grade. In Pennsylvania, 131 hospitals were graded, and 56 earned an “A”, 38 earned a “B”, 30 earned a “C”, 7 earned a “D”, and no hospitals earned an “F”.

Lehigh Valley Business Coalition on Healthcare (LVBCH) is your Leapfrog Regional Leader for the Leapfrog Group in Pennsylvania, working with providers, purchasers, payors and patients in Pennsylvania to drive safe, high-quality health care. LVBCH would like to recognize our local hospital systems and their campus that received an “A” including: Geisinger’s Community Medical Center, Lewistown Hospital, Medical Center, Shamokin Area Community Hospital, and St. Luke’s Hospital campuses; Lehigh Valley Health Network’s Hecktown Oaks and Pocono campuses; and St. Luke’s University Health Network’s Allentown, Anderson, Bethlehem, Carbon, Easton, Monroe, and Sacred Heart campuses.

“The Hospital Safety Grade empowers patients to choose the safest hospitals in their area,” said Amanda Greene, Director of Operations, LVBCH and Leapfrog Regional Leader. “When hospitals are dedicated to transparent reporting and patient safety, they are quite literally saving lives. The employers and purchasers in LVBCH stand with Leapfrog and the work they are doing to protect patients from preventable harms.”

Hospitals even in the same city can differ greatly in patient safety. A patient’s choice of hospital could be a life-or-death decision, and the Hospital Safety Grade arms patients with data to help them make more informed decisions on where they seek care. The latest Hospital Safety Grades also show that healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) continue to decline since fall 2022, when HAIs were at a five-year high, while patient experience has shown significant improvement since the fall 2023 Safety Grade cycle.

### **About LVBCH**

LVBCH is a multi-state, not-for-profit, coalition of employers striving to provide access to quality affordable healthcare for their employees. 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 Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, the National Quality Forum and The Leapfrog Group. For more information, visit [www.LVBCH.com](http://www.LVBCH.com).

### **About The Leapfrog Group**

Founded in 2000 by large employers and other purchasers, [The Leapfrog Group](http://TheLeapfrogGroup.org) is a national nonprofit organization driving a movement for giant leaps for patient safety. Among its initiatives, the [Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade](http://LeapfrogHospitalSafetyGrade.org) was launched in 2012 and 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. It is the only hospital ratings program based exclusively on hospital prevention of medical errors and harm to patients. It is fully transparent and free to the public, and grades are updated biannually in the fall and in the spring. To look up your hospital’s Safety Grade, please visit [HospitalSafetyGrade.org](http://HospitalSafetyGrade.org). For more from Leapfrog follow up on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/LeapfrogGroup), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/leapfrog-group), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/leapfroggroup) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/leapfroggroup) and [sign up for our newsletter](#).