



BON SECOURS
ST. FRANCIS HEALTH SYSTEM

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**National Leapfrog Group Announces
Bon Secours St. Francis Health System
ST. FRANCIS downtown
as
2009 TOP HOSPITAL**

*December 3, 2009
Washington, DC, Greenville, SC*

While Congress debates how healthcare reform can best control healthcare costs, the Leapfrog Group, the nation's premier healthcare purchasers group, points today to 45 hospitals that are already leading through example—delivering the best quality care in the nation while attaining the highest levels of efficiency.

In results made public this morning, The Leapfrog Group (www.leapfroggroup.org) named Bon Secours St. Francis Health System as one of the 45 national Top Hospitals for achieving high-level of standards of safety, quality and efficiency that are most relevant to consumers and purchasers of care (i.e. employers).

“This year’s class of Top Hospitals not only hits the mark in areas such as medication error prevention and preventing ICU deaths, but they also use their resources wisely, providing excellent and efficient outcomes for patients,” said Leah Binder, CEO, The Leapfrog Group. Regardless of what happens to healthcare reform, these hospitals are the future.”

“This is a distinct honor,” says Mary Jo Cagle, MD, Chief Medical Officer. “It reflects that our physicians and staff have set the highest goals for quality of care measures – and their results are outstanding. These are projects that make a difference in lives of patients.”

Dr. Cagle further emphasized that there are two outstanding examples of the clinical transformation happening at St. Francis that are key to this recognition. One is St. Francis commitment to 24-hour in-house coverage of the ICU by intensivists (board-certified physicians who have specialized training in handling critically-ill patients) and, the full integration of electronic health record throughout the Bon Secours St. Francis Health System that helps prevent medical errors and provides real-time best practice alerts for the entire care team.

About the Leapfrog survey...

To be named a Leapfrog Top Hospital, participating hospitals must first track and document specific measures of care in a comprehensive annual survey. New this year, once hospitals demonstrated top quality, they were also evaluated on operational efficiency.

“The target issues that are reflected in the Leapfrog survey -- mortality rates for certain common procedures, infection rates, safety practices, plus measures of efficiency – are critical in delivering patient care excellence. Participating at any level in the Leapfrog survey requires that a hospital be willing to be very transparent and hold itself accountable on every level – for best clinical outcomes as well as how efficiently we deliver that quality of care,” continues Dr. Cagle.

Of the 1,206 hospitals nationwide and 24 participating hospitals in South Carolina, **Bon Secours St. Francis Health System** is the **only hospital in South Carolina to achieve this ranking and only the second time any hospital in the Carolinas has made this prestigious list.*** The list includes hospitals recognized as national medical centers of excellence including the Mayo Clinics, Stanford Hospital Clinics; Northwestern Memorial; Princeton University Medical Center.

The Leapfrog Hospital Survey is widely accepted as the gold standard for comparing hospitals' performance on the national standards of safety, quality, and efficiency that are most relevant to consumers and purchasers of care. Hospitals that participate in the Leapfrog Hospital Survey achieve hospital-wide improvements that translate into millions of lives and dollars saved. Leapfrog's purchaser members use survey results to inform their employees and purchasing strategies.

In 2009, Top Hospitals in urban settings fulfill the following criteria:

- Fully meet Leapfrog standards for **implementing computer physician order entry (CPOE)** systems (that have been shown to reduce medication errors by up to 85%), and for passing Leapfrog's test of their system;
- Fully meet stringent **performance standards for complex, high-risk procedures (such as heart bypass surgery)** done in that particular hospital;
- Fully meet standards for **staffing the ICU, shown to reduce mortality by 40% or more**
- **Score in the top decile in the country for efficiency** – scored by the Leapfrog Hospital Recognition Program incorporating **quality outcomes, length of stay, readmission rates, and incidence of hospital acquired conditions and infections. The efficiency standard applies to heart bypass surgery, heart angioplasty, heart attack and pneumonia patients.**

See entire survey results at www.Leapfroggroup.org

“We know from research that Leapfrog-reporting hospitals are among the best in the country, and they demonstrate through Leapfrog that they set ambitious goals for their performance,” said Binder, pointing to a study by Dr Ashish Jha at Harvard Medical School, published in the peer-reviewed Journal of the Joint Commission in 2008, concluding that Leapfrog hospitals have lower mortality and better quality of care than those that don’t report to Leapfrog.

This year’s top urban hospitals are located in 13 states – Arizona, California, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington:

Mayo Clinic Hospital; Phoenix AZ
Stanford Hospital & Clinics; Stanford CA
Kaiser Foundation Hospital - South Sacramento; Sacramento CA
Kaiser Foundation Hospital - Sacramento; Sacramento CA
Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Park Medical Center; Baldwin Park CA
Kaiser Permanente Bellflower/Downey Medical Center; Bellflower CA
Kaiser Permanente Anaheim Medical Center; Anaheim CA
California Pacific Medical Center - Pacific Campus; San Francisco CA
Kaiser Foundation Hospital - Hayward; Hayward CA
University of California Davis Medical Center; Sacramento CA
California Pacific Medical Center - California Campus; San Francisco CA
California Pacific Medical Center - Davies Campus; San Francisco CA
NorthShore University Health System’s Highland Park Hospital; Highland Park IL
Rush University Medical Center; Chicago IL
Northwestern Memorial Hospital; Chicago IL
University of Maryland Medical Center; Baltimore MD
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center; Boston MA
Brigham and Women's Hospital; Boston MA Baystate Medical Center; Springfield MA
North Shore Medical Center - Union Hospital; Lynn MA
Norwood Hospital; Norwood MA
Harper-Hutzel Hospital; Detroit MI
Detroit Receiving Hospital; Detroit MI
Regions Hospital; Saint Paul MN
Mayo Clinic Saint Marys; Rochester MN
Mayo Clinic - Methodist Hospital; Rochester MN
University Medical Center at Princeton; Princeton NJ
The Valley Hospital; Ridgewood NJ
James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute;
Columbus OH The Ohio State University Hospital;
Columbus OH Lehigh Valley Hospital; Allentown PA
Bon Secours St. Francis Health System; Greenville SC
Vanderbilt University Hospital; Nashville TN
Virginia Mason Medical Center; Seattle WA

Top pediatric hospitals in 2009 achieved a quality score of 95 or better through Leapfrog's Hospital Recognition Program and are located in California, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. New this year, Leapfrog recognizes a new category: Top Rural Hospitals. The award winners in 2009 scored in the top decile nationally for efficiency and are located in Georgia and Maine: Polk Medical Center; Cedartown GA; Stephens Memorial Hospital; Norway ME ; Waldo County General Hospital; Belfast ME.

About Bon Secours St. Francis Health System

Founded in 1932, Bon Secours St. Francis Health System is a community of caregivers devoted to bringing compassion to healthcare and good help to those in need through the ministry of Jesus Christ. St. Francis has a variety of services including: Cardiac Care, Cancer Treatment, Orthopedic and Spine Services, Surgical Services, Women's Health Services, St. Francis HomeCare, Open Arms Hospice, Community Ministries Outreach Services, St. Francis Foundation Philanthropic Services and Business Health Services. To learn more about Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, a top performer in the nation for patient satisfaction, visit www.stfrancishealth.org.

About The Leapfrog Group

The Leapfrog Group uses 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 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.

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www.leapfroggroup.org

*UNC Hospitals at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill North Carolina was a Top Hospital in 2006