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CONSUMERS URGED TO USE LEAPFROG SAFETY AND QUALITY DATA TO MAKE HOSPITAL CHOICES

Indiana Hospitals Respond to Survey in Record Numbers

(Indianapolis, Indiana) –The Leapfrog Group, Indiana Employers Quality Health Alliance and Tri-State Business Group on Health congratulate 26 hospitals for releasing crucial consumer information about their quality and safety record via the Leapfrog Hospital Quality and Safety Survey – an influential rating system that reveals new findings about the state of health care quality and safety in the nation’s hospitals.

“Participation in the Leapfrog survey is a clear demonstration of a hospital’s commitment to disclosing vital information so that consumers can make wise health care choices. We congratulate Indiana hospitals for stepping up to the plate,” said Suzanne Delbanco, Leapfrog Group CEO.

“I applaud the 26 hospitals on their commitment to safety and quality of care,” said State Health Commissioner Judith A. Monroe, M.D. “Following the Leapfrog Group’s four practices has the potential to save Hoosier lives.”

Indiana hospitals (*alphabetical order*) that have thus far submitted responses to the survey include:

- Clarian Health: Indiana University*, Methodist* and Riley Children’s Hospitals in Indianapolis
- Clarian West Medical Center in Avon
- Clark Memorial Hospital in Jeffersonville
- Community Hospital Anderson & Madison County
- Community Hospitals: East, North and South in Indianapolis
- Deaconess Hospital in Evansville
- Deaconess Women’s Hospital in Newburgh
- Decatur County Hospital in Greensburg
- Gibson General Hospital in Princeton
- Hendricks Regional Hospital in Danville
- Howard Regional Health System in Kokomo
- The Indiana Heart Hospital
- St. Francis Hospital & Health Centers in Beech Grove, Indianapolis and Mooresville
- Saint Johns Health System in Anderson
- St. Joseph Hospital & Health Center in Kokomo
- St. Mary’s Medical Center Evansville
- St. Vincent Hospital and Women’s Hospital in Indianapolis*
- Terre Haute Regional Hospital
- Union Hospital in Terre Haute
- West Central Community Hospital in Clinton

* *These hospitals have fully implemented Leapfrog’s standard for ICU physician staffing and the Leapfrog Safe Practices Score. They also meet Leapfrog’s standards for at least two of the high-risk procedures or conditions included in the evidence-based hospital referral leap.*

The Leapfrog Hospital Quality and Safety Survey collects and publicizes data at www.leapfroggroup.org on a hospital’s progress toward implementing practices in four categories:

1. **Computerized Physician Order Entry (CPOE):** Physicians enter patient prescriptions and other orders into computers linked to error prevention software.
2. **ICU Physician Staffing (IPS):** Staffing intensive care units with trained ICU specialists (intensivists).
3. **Evidence-Based Hospital Referral:** The survey asks hospitals for information on five high-risk procedures and two high-risk neonatal conditions. This category uses a combination of process, outcome and volume criteria to inform and guide patients to hospitals with a proven track record.

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4. **Leapfrog Safe Practices Score:** Leapfrog scores hospitals' progress on 27 National Quality Forum Safe Practice areas (the three practices above complete the set of 30 NQF Safe Practices). These practices cover such areas as safe medication use, following specific care processes and improving the transfer of patient information.

Responding to the survey is an important step in quality improvement. Submitting hospitals have therefore started that process. The next step will be to improve on current standings. In Indiana, for instance, 73 percent of hospitals that submitted survey responses have fully implemented at least one of the four Leapfrog patient safety and quality categories. However, of 22 hospitals with ICUs, only 23 percent have fully implemented ICU physician staffing with intensivists, and to date only one of the reporting Indiana hospitals has fully implemented CPOE. 58 percent fully meet the 27 NQF Safe Practice areas.

Research shows that if the first three leaps (CPOE, IPS and Evidence-Based Hospital Referral) were implemented in all urban hospitals in the U.S., we could save up to 65,341 lives, prevent as many as 907,600 serious medication errors (Birkmeyer, 2004), and save \$41.5 billion (Conrad, 2005) each year.

"This is not just about a one-time reporting of quality and safety in our hospitals. It's about tracking progress over the years and encouraging hospitals to make improvements in the care they provide our community. These survey results for individual hospitals, which can be found at www.leapfroggroup.org, indicate a clear opportunity for improvement, which we expect to see over time," said Dr. Ned Lamkin of the Indiana Employers Quality Health Alliance. "We salute the hospitals that have clearly made that commitment. We look forward to continuing to work with them, and the new Indiana Patient Safety Center of the Indiana Hospital&Health Association, toward that end."

Lisa Gish of the Tri-State Business Group on Health added, "We are proud of the commitment these hospitals are making to provide useful information to patients to make informed hospital choices. We encourage all employers in Indiana to inform and educate their employees, retirees and families about which hospitals are making significant progress toward meeting Leapfrog's practices."

The Leapfrog website displays each hospital's results, which can be viewed by anyone at no charge, and is updated each month with data from additional hospitals.

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About The Leapfrog Group

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. It is a voluntary program aimed at mobilizing employer purchasing power to alert America's health industry that big leaps in health care safety, quality and customer value will be recognized and rewarded. The Leapfrog Group was founded in November 2000 by the Business Roundtable and has support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, as well as its members and other funders. For more information, visit www.leapfroggroup.org.

About Indiana Employers Quality Health Alliance

The Indiana Employers Quality Health Alliance (www.qualityhealthalliance.org) is an organization of Central Indiana employers established in 1994 to address employer concerns about health care costs and quality. IEQHA's initial approach was to focus on gathering and sharing information about provider performance with the providers for self-improvement efforts and with employers to assist purchasing decisions. Current efforts to improve hospital quality and safety began last year and are guided by a steering committee with representatives from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Indiana Manufacturers Association, State of Indiana, City of Indianapolis, General Motors, DaimlerChrysler, Marsh Supermarkets, Citizens Gas & Coke, PK U.S.A., Tri-State Business Group on Health and Goodwill Industries.

About Tri-State Business Group on Health, Inc.

The Tri-State Business Group on Health (www.tsbgh.evansville.net) is a coalition of local businesses working together to support and influence actions to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care services in the Tri-State. Since 1994, TSBGH has been representing employer health care purchasers throughout Southwest Indiana, Northwest Kentucky and Southeast Illinois that offer health insurance benefits to over 40,000 employees and dependents nationwide. Our mission is to actively initiate, support and influence actions to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of health care services in the Tri-state. It is one of over 70 employer-driven coalitions across the US and one of two in Indiana. TSBGH is a member of the National Business Coalition on Health."