

DFWBGH Media Contact:
Cary Conway
cary@conwaycommunication.com
972.649.4707

North Texas Spring 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades Announced

DALLAS – May 15, 2019 – [The Leapfrog Group](#), a national non-profit representing the nation’s largest and most influential employers and purchasers of health care, announced today the spring 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades. The independent grading system assigns A, B, C, D and F letter grades to general acute-care hospitals in the US based on their ability to protect patients from avoidable errors, injuries, accidents and infections.

Texas fell from the fifth spot nationally to the ninth due to lower letter grades for spring compared to the fall of 2018. In north Texas (Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Fannin, Grayson, Henderson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant and Wise counties) 26 of the 56 hospitals that were graded earned an A, 14 received a B and 16 a C. Notably, Baylor University Medical Center moved from a B to an A for the first time, suggesting a concerted effort by hospital management and staff to improve overall patient safety at the main campus.

The non-profit [Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health](#) (DFWBGH), representing employer purchasers of healthcare, has been leading the Leapfrog Group’s patient safety initiative in north Texas for the past 19 years, encouraging hospitals to improve patient safety and publicly report their efforts to reduce medical errors and infections and save lives.

“The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade offers north Texas employers and consumers critical information about which hospitals in the Dallas-Fort Worth area are best at protecting patients from preventable harm,” said Marianne Fazen, PhD, executive director of DFWBGH. “We are committed to ensuring that hospitals in our area offer the best and safest care to their patients. We strive to work together with local hospitals and other stakeholders to make this happen.”

Alongside its semiannual Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade report, Leapfrog contracted with The Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality at Johns Hopkins Medicine to update its estimate of deaths due to errors, accidents, injuries and infections at A, B, C, D and F hospitals. Researchers assessed more than 2,600 hospitals receiving Hospital Safety Grades and found that when compared to A hospitals, patients at D and F hospitals face almost double (92% greater) the risk of death. If every hospital performed at the A hospital level, an estimated 50,000 lives could be saved. Overall, the researchers concluded that an estimated 160,000 lives are lost annually due to avoidable medical errors that are accounted for in the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade.

“Avoidable medical errors and infections in hospitals continue to be one of the leading causes of death in the US,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade provides Texas with useful, up-to-date information to further ensure safety and accountability when choosing a hospital.”

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 US 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 hospitalsafetygrade.org and follow The Leapfrog Group on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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. leapfroggroup.org

About DFWBGH

The Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health (DFWBGH) is a regional coalition of Dallas and Fort Worth employers dedicated to improving health care quality, cost-effectiveness, transparency and accountability. Representing over 93 allied and 75 corporate members with 750,000 local individuals spending over \$4 billion in healthcare annually, members include American Airlines, Brinker International, City of Fort Worth, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, DynCorp International, Greyhound Lines, Inc., JC Penney, The Neiman Marcus Group, Sabre, Southwest Airlines, Texas Instruments and Vistra Energy. A member of the Texas Business Group on Health and the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, DFWBGH's goals are to educate and empower employers and their employees to make informed health care-related decisions and to encourage health care providers to continuously improve their performance. Follow on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). dfwbgh.org

###