

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

**HOUSTON – 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 US based on their ability to protect patients from avoidable errors, injuries, accidents and infections.

Texas jumped to the fifth spot nationally up from 14<sup>th</sup> place in spring 2018 due to a nearly 20% increase in A graded hospitals. In the Houston area 20 hospitals were graded, with 10 earning an A, seven a B and three earned a C. Hospitals that received an A: Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, Houston Methodist Hospital, Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital and Memorial Hermann Memorial City Medical Center in Houston; CHI St. Luke's Health The Woodlands Hospital; Conroe Regional Medical Center; Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital in Baytown; Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital in Sugar Land; Kingwood Medical Center; and Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital.

The [Houston Business Coalition on Health](#) (HBCH), a non-profit multi-stakeholder organization representing more than 85 local businesses providing health care benefits to more than 800,000 area employees and their family members is the Houston area [Regional Leader](#) for The Leapfrog Group.

“The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades offer Houston employers, purchasers and patients’ critical information on the safety of their hospitals,” said Chris Skisak, PhD, HBCH executive director. “Our employer purchasers want to transparently work with Houston hospitals to continually improve safety and the patient experience. The cost of health care is directly linked to hospital safety and quality of delivery.”

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 HBCH and its members 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.

The Leapfrog Group only provides safety grades to general acute care hospitals, not critical access, pediatric, or other specialty hospitals. However, all hospitals can choose to participate in the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, a voluntary, annual patient safety and quality survey free to all hospitals in the US. It was created to encourage hospitals to publicly report their progress in meeting quality and safety objectives and focuses on hospital structures, processes of care and outcomes. As the Houston Regional Leader, HBCII works with all area hospitals to improve participation in the survey to the benefit of its employer members and the entire Houston community.

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](#).

#### **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.

#### **About Houston Business Coalition on Health**

The non-profit [Houston Business Coalition on Health](http://Houston Business Coalition on Health) is the leading resource for Houston employers and their health services providers dedicated to providing health benefits at a sustainable cost while improving the quality and employee experience of their delivery through effective benefits design. With 85 members, HBCII represents 800,000 local and more than 2 million national employer-sponsored lives. HBCII a member of the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions. For additional information visit our website [houstonbch.org](http://houstonbch.org) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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