



For Immediate Release

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**Saint Francis Receives “A” Grade in 2015 Hospital Safety Score**

*The Leapfrog Group designates Saint Francis a “Straight A” hospital for seven consecutive top-grade rankings*

(HARTFORD, CT, April 30, 2015) – Saint Francis Care has again received an “A” rating Hospital Safety Score<sup>SM</sup> from *The Leapfrog Group*, a national hospital quality watchdog organization.

Saint Francis is one of only two Connecticut hospitals to receive “Straight A” recognition since the program’s inception in 2012. Leapfrog has also cited the 182 hospitals nationwide that have consistently received an A grade for safety with a “Straight A’s” logo on its Hospital Safety Score website.

In addition to Saint Francis, three other Connecticut hospitals earned the highest A rating in the most recent review; three hospitals received “B” ratings; 18 a “C” rating; and one a “D” rating. Across the country, 782 hospitals received an “A” grade.

Of the 26 Connecticut hospitals scored, 21 stayed the same, two improved, and three worsened.

An A grade is one of the most meaningful honors a hospital can achieve, and one of the most valuable indicators for patients looking for a safe place to receive care. The Hospital Safety Score is the gold standard rating for patient safety, compiled under the guidance of the nation’s leading patient safety experts and administered by The Leapfrog Group, a national, nonprofit hospital safety watchdog. The first and only hospital safety rating to be peer-reviewed in the *Journal of Patient Safety*, the Score is free to the public and designed to give consumers information they can use to protect themselves and their families when facing a hospital stay.

The Hospital Safety Score<sup>SM</sup> for 2015 grades hospitals on their overall performance in keeping patients safe from harm and preventable errors. The grades are derived from analysis of publicly available data using 28 evidence-based, national measures of hospital safety.

“Saint Francis has implemented numerous patient safety and quality initiatives ranging from daily Safety Huddles and implementation of a high reliability training program, to perioperative checklist training to help ensure maximum safety,” said Christopher M. Dadlez, President and CEO, Saint Francis. “This recognition from Leapfrog underscores that the approaches we are taking to improving patient safety are working. We will continue to focus on providing world-class care in a truly compassionate setting.”

“Saint Francis’ achievement of Straight A’s validates its achievement in preventing harm within the hospital, and we are proud to recognize the efforts of the care providers and staff,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group, which administers the Hospital Safety Score. “Patient safety requires constant vigilance, and we encourage Saint Francis and all other A hospitals to continue demonstrating unrelenting commitment to patients by consistently working to provide a safe environment for care.”

*Leapfrog* works under the guidance of an eight-member *Leapfrog* Blue Ribbon Panel, made up of patient safety experts from across the country, to select measures and develop a scoring methodology. The Hospital Safety Score<sup>SM</sup> assigns an A, B, C, D or F letter grade to local hospitals on its safety in preventing errors, infections, injuries and medication mix-ups. Compiled by the nation’s leading experts on patient safety, the goal of the Hospital Safety Score<sup>SM</sup> is to reduce the more than 440,000 yearly deaths from hospital errors and injuries by publicly recognizing safety and exposing harm. The Hospital Safety Score<sup>SM</sup> empowers patients to make informed decisions about the safety of hospital care.

For more information on the scoring methodology, visit [hospitalsafetyscore.org](http://hospitalsafetyscore.org).

### **About Saint Francis Care**

Saint Francis *Care* is an integrated healthcare delivery system established by Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, an anchor institution in north central Connecticut since 1897. Licensed for 617 beds and 65 bassinets, it is a major teaching hospital and the largest Catholic hospital in New England. Other major entities of Saint Francis *Care* include The Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital, the Connecticut Joint Replacement Institute, the Hoffman Heart and Vascular Institute of Connecticut, the Saint Francis/Mount Sinai Regional Cancer Center, the Joyce D. and Andrew J. Mandell Center for Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care and Neuroscience Research, and Saint Francis Health*Care* Partners. Johnson Memorial Medical Center, parent organization of Johnson Memorial Hospital, Evergreen Health Care Center, and Home and Community Health Services is also a Saint Francis *Care* Partner. Saint Francis *Care*’s services are supported by a network of seven major Access Centers and eight additional medical office centers sited throughout the region. For more information, visit [www.stfranciscare.com](http://www.stfranciscare.com).

### **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 Hospital Safety Score, 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.