



For Immediate Release

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West Florida Healthcare Area's Only Hospital to Receive 'A' Safety Rating for Patient Safety and Maintains Position on Prestigious Straight "A" List

Pensacola, FL November 8, 2018 – West Florida Healthcare has received an "A" rating for hospital safety for the seventh reporting period in a row from [The Leapfrog Group](#), an independent Washington D.C.-based organization aiming to improve health care quality and safety for consumers and purchasers. West Florida Healthcare is the only local hospital that earned an "A" grade and maintained their status on the prestigious "Straight A" listing among hospitals across the nation for their efforts in protecting patients from harm and meeting the highest safety standards in the U.S. The Safety Grade assigns an A, B, C, D or F grade to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, infections and other harms among patients in their care. To compare how local hospitals ranked among each other and nationally please visit hospitalsafetygrade.org

"West Florida Healthcare is proud to be the area's only hospital to earn and maintain our "A" Safety Grade from the Fall of 2015 through the current reporting period," said Carlton Ulmer, President and Chief Executive Officer for West Florida Healthcare. "To achieve and maintain the "A" Safety Grade means that our nurses, physicians, employees and volunteers have remained focused on transforming the healthcare experience. The vision is for highly-competent professionals to work in a collaborative environment to provide patient and family centered care using evidence-based clinical practice standards."

"This is the only national rating of how well hospitals protect patients from preventable harm and death, such as medical errors, infections, and injuries," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "Receiving an 'A' Safety Grade means a hospital is among the best in the country for preventing these terrible problems and putting their patients first, 24 hours a day."

By creating multidisciplinary teams, West Florida Healthcare has dedicated itself to serving as the quality leader in Northwest Florida by supporting the use of valid, reliable data to assure the delivery of optimal patient care to reduce medical errors. These multidisciplinary teams of physicians, nurses, clinicians, educators, and support staff who follow evidence-based care practices, process improvement techniques, and systems are able to enhance the patient's quality of care.

According to the Leapfrog study:

- There were more than 206,000 avoidable deaths in 2017
- Compared to an A Hospital, your risk of dying in a hospital increases as the safety grade decreases:
 - o B – 8.5%
 - o C – 35.2%
 - o D&F – 49.8 %

Developed under the guidance of an Expert Panel, the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade uses 27 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign grades to approximately 2,500 U.S. hospitals twice per year. It is peer reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public.

To see West Florida Hospital's full "A" Safety Grade details, and to access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit www.hospitalsafetygrade.org and follow the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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 West Florida Healthcare

West Florida Healthcare is proud to be the area's leading health care facility in quality outcomes performance. In addition to receiving an A Rating in Patient Safety from the Leapfrog Group since Fall of 2015, West Florida Healthcare is also the area's first Accredited Chest Pain Center and Breast Imaging Center of Excellence. West Florida Healthcare is also the first hospital in the state of Florida to have earned Atrial Fibrillation with Electrophysiology Services Accreditation. In addition, West Florida Healthcare is an Advanced Primary Stroke Center and offers specialized Emergency Department services tailored specifically to the needs of seniors as well as a Kids' ER dedicated to serving the emergency medical needs of children. The West Florida Healthcare campus includes the acute care hospital, the area's only comprehensive,

CARF-accredited physical rehabilitation hospital, and a mental health facility. Affiliated with HCA, the nation's leading provider of healthcare, West Florida Healthcare meets the community's healthcare needs in major services such as cardiology, cardiovascular surgery, oncology, orthopedics, robotic-assisted surgery, critical care, neurology/neurosurgery, emergency care, urology, behavioral health, gastroenterology, obstetrics, pulmonary, and rehabilitative medicine. For more information, visit www.westfloridahospital.com or call (850) 494-3212.

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