

## 2007 Leapfrog Top Hospitals Description and Methodology

The 2007 Top Hospitals list is based on 1,285 hospitals that responded to the Leapfrog Hospital Quality and Safety Survey as of August 31, 2007.

Top Hospitals fully meet Leapfrog's standard for ICU Physician Staffing (IPS) and the Safe Practices Score (SPS) and either of the following: (1) Two or more of the eight Evidence Based Hospital Referral (EBHR) areas; or, (2) Computerized Physician Order Entry plus one of the eight EBHR areas. Top Children's Hospitals fully meet the standard for IPS, SPS and the EBHR Neonatal ICU standard for high-risk, low-birth weight or premature newborns.

### Differences Between the 2006 and 2007 Top Hospitals Lists

Due to significant differences in how Top Hospitals were identified in the 2006 and 2007 Surveys, **the two lists should not be compared**. Since Leapfrog added new measures to the 2007 Survey and made necessary modifications to the Top Hospitals criteria, some of last year's Top Hospitals do not satisfy the 2007 criteria. The primary changes to the 2007 Survey involved the Safe Practices Score and EBHR areas.

The 2007 Leapfrog Safe Practices Score reflects the updated National Quality Forum list of endorsed safe practices. Several practices on the 2006 list were revised and some new practices were added or substituted. As a result, Leapfrog:

- Adjusted both the content and question wording in the 2007 Survey to reflect the NQF update;
- Increased the rigor of the scoring methodology for each question, no longer giving full credit to hospitals who commit to implement certain practices, but who have not yet done so; and,
- Re-based benchmarks for assessing hospitals' level of implementation for the safe practices to reflect the current 2007 relative performance of hospitals participating in this year's survey.

Due to these changes, many of the hospitals that fully met the standard for the SPS leap last year didn't meet the standard this year.

In the area of EBHR, Leapfrog increased the number of procedures (adding aortic valve and bariatric surgeries) and raised the standards for existing clinical areas. By adding surgeon volume to the scoring criteria, fully meeting Leapfrog's standards for these high-risk procedures and treatments is now more difficult.