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### **The Leapfrog Group welcomes two new studies on outcomes**

- (WASHINGTON, D.C.)—The Leapfrog Group welcomed two new studies published this week in the *Journal of American Medical Association*. Says Claire Turner, communications director of The Leapfrog Group “We welcome these two new studies demonstrating the benefits of using patient outcomes data as an indicator of hospital quality. The Leapfrog Group has been working to make differences in surgical outcomes among hospitals available to consumers and are delighted that these two new studies support this. One of Leapfrog’s key patient safety recommendations is that, for certain high-risk procedures, patients be referred to hospitals that have the best outcomes, follow proven clinical processes and perform a certain volume of surgeries or treatments.”

As well as volume, Leapfrog already incorporates outcomes data into its hospital scores for two of its seven high risk conditions. This includes CABG, where the JAMA study only looked at Leapfrog’s volume recommendation, and PCI. In fact for CABG risk-adjusted mortality has now replaced volume as the primary basis for the score. Leapfrog is delighted that the study by Peterson validates this decision. For four of the seven conditions Leapfrog also scores adherence to a number of proven clinical processes; for example prescribing betablockers within 24 hours of cardiac surgery. The four conditions include CABG, PCI and NICU.

Leapfrog is also working with a number of organizations, including the Vermont Oxford Network who provided the data for the NICU study, to incorporate even more outcomes data into its hospital scoring system. Leapfrog works with a panel of over 60 experts to ensure that the outcomes it incorporates are rigorous and have been audited and risk-adjusted. The Leapfrog Group updates its patient safety recommendations every year to incorporate the latest research, and it’s expert panel will certainly consider the research presented in these two articles.

The Leapfrog Group’s aim to increase the transparency of the health care system in the US as well as to raise awareness amongst health care consumers of the information on the quality of health care providers that is already available to them.

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### **About The Leapfrog Group**

The Leapfrog Group was founded in November 2000 by the Business Roundtable and has support from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Leapfrog was created to help save lives, reduce preventable medical mistakes and improve the quality of health care by giving consumers the information they need to make more informed health care choices. More than 145 Fortune 500 corporations and other large private and public sector health benefits purchasers have joined The Leapfrog Group, representing more than 34 million enrollees. The Leapfrog Group began surveying hospitals in 2001. Hospital patient safety data can be found at [www.leapfroggroup.org](http://www.leapfroggroup.org)

The Leapfrog Group's effort was launched the same year an Institute of Medicine report revealed that tens of thousands of Americans die each year from preventable medical mistakes made in hospitals. In addition, nearly one million medication errors occur in hospitals each year. Research conducted by John D. Birkmeyer, M.D., Dartmouth Medical School, indicates that the three Leapfrog improvements could save nearly 60,000 lives per year, and prevent more than half a million serious medication errors if all non-rural hospitals in the United States implemented them. In addition, the U.S. health care system could save approximately \$9.7 billion annually.

Under evidence-based hospital referral, there are seven high-risk procedures and conditions that Leapfrog measures on volume, process and outcomes. Coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery, Percutaneous Coronary Interventions, Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, Pancreatic cancer resection, Esophageal surgery and two high-risk neonatal conditions.

In addition to The Leapfrog Group's Web site, Leapfrog member corporations and organizations make survey information available to employees through corporate Web sites and employee health care benefits materials. In addition, many health plans and the following Web-based vendors also disseminate the data: DoctorQuality, Inc.; Subimo; Select Quality Care; and Health Grades, Inc.

Partnering in this effort are The MEDSTAT Group and HealthGrades. The MEDSTAT Group ([www.medstat.com](http://www.medstat.com)) is providing data collection, analysis and support services for this effort. This includes designing and developing the online hospital survey, fielding the survey via the Web and reporting the results to The Leapfrog Group. HealthGrades is Leapfrog's technology partner, providing data analysis and a consumer ratings system of the results. HealthGrades also will display the data on its own Web site ([www.healthgrades.com](http://www.healthgrades.com)).

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