



## **Title**

Multi-hospital Healthcare System & Multi-campus Hospital Reporting

## **Action**

Hospitals within a system must report individually; each campus within a hospital must report individually.

## **Description**

It is Leapfrog's goal to disclose hospital performance information for the benefit of consumers, purchasers and referring physicians as they make decisions about where to seek care or where to direct patients. Making differences among facilities known to users of health care is critical to inform this decision-making. Our policy regarding multi-hospital systems and hospitals with multiple campuses is based on achieving this goal.

Variations in outcomes exist among hospitals within the same health care system and among various facilities in a multi-campus hospital. Research demonstrates that for each of Leapfrog's patient safety recommendations (computer physician order entry, ICU staffing with intensivists and evidence-based hospital referral), large performance variations exist between facilities that have these practices in place and those that do not.

If there is variation among the campuses regarding their progress toward full compliance of the Leapfrog standards, reporting the multiple facilities within a system or multi-campus hospital as one unit potentially undermines consumers' ability to discern a distinction among the facilities. For example, if a system or multi-campus hospital reports full implementation of intensivist staffing but only one facility meets the standard, the consumer who wants to receive care at a campus with a full staff of qualified intensivists will not know that, of all of the system's facilities, which one is fully compliant with Leapfrog's intensivist recommendation. It is to the advantage of the hospital to disclose separately so patients can make accurate determinations when selecting where to go for their care. If all campuses are equally compliant with the CPOE and ICU staffing recommendations, the individual facilities simply repeat the answers to the survey for each discrete hospital or facility.

For the high-risk surgeries and conditions on which Leapfrog focuses, if a hospital system has two or more inpatient units which operate on separate campuses (i.e., are not co-located or physically adjacent), they must be identified as separate hospitals for purposes of the survey. Even in cases where hospitals' surgical teams or individual surgeons work at more than one facility in the hospital system or where the multi-hospital healthcare systems have the same quality management policies and procedures, individual facilities must report separately. A common medical staff is not sufficient reason to consider the hospital as one.

Each facility within a system or multi-campus hospital must report on each procedure or condition as performed or treated at its applicable facility. For example, if elective CABGs are performed in one facility only and the neonatal intensive care unit is located in one facility only, each facility should report only on the procedure it performs. If a campus does not perform a specific procedure electively, it should report "N/A—standard does not apply". For those complex procedures performed in multiple facilities within the system or

multi-campus hospital, each facility must report separately regarding its adherence to the volume, process measures for quality and outcome specifications set by Leapfrog.

Although facilities within a system or multi-campus hospital may be viewed as a single hospital from an operational perspective (i.e. sharing a Medicare provider number, taxpayer ID, hospital license and medical staff), the individual facilities may have differences when it comes to implementation of Leapfrog's recommendations. Therefore, it is our policy that facilities within a multi-hospital health care system or facilities within a multi-campus hospital that are not within a contiguous geographic location are considered separate facility campuses and must report separately regardless of common ownership or control.

## **Contact**

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