

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**November 8, 2018****Contact:** JoAnn Cavanaugh, Director Public Relations**Office:** (716) 706-2061 | **Cell:** (716) 228-4886 | **Email:** jcav@chsbuffalo.org

Catholic Health Receives Area's Top Grades in Leapfrog Safety Report

Four Catholic Health hospitals receive "A" Safety Grades in fall 2018 report

Strengthening its position as the area leader in quality and patient safety, Catholic Health has once again earned the region's highest overall score in the Leapfrog Group's Fall 2018 Hospital Safety Grade Report and the only "A" grades in Western New York. In the national report released today, Catholic Health hospitals received four of only 12 "A" Safety Grades that were given in all of New York State.

Topping the list of area hospitals, Kenmore Mercy, Sisters of Charity and its St. Joseph Campus and Mount St. Mary's all earned "A" Safety Grades. It is the tenth consecutive "A" grade for Kenmore Mercy. Mercy Hospital of Buffalo received a Grade of "B." In addition to Catholic Health receiving the most "A" Safety Grades for its individual hospitals, the system achieved the region's highest combined score.

"For everyone in Catholic Health – from our physicians, nurses, clinical professionals, and support staff, to our leadership and board of directors – quality and patient safety is our top priority," said Mark Sullivan, President & CEO of Catholic Health. "This focused commitment has helped us move the needle even further to achieve these leading scores, locally and throughout New York State. Most importantly, it reaffirms that our patients come first. I can't thank our team enough for everything they do to drive quality throughout our organization and set a new standard for excellence in our community."

Based in Washington, DC, The Leapfrog Group is an independent industry watchdog founded more than a decade ago by the nation's largest employers to improve healthcare quality and safety for consumers. The group strives to promote transparency in healthcare quality reporting, by grading hospitals from "A" to "F" on how well they protect patients from medical errors, infections, and other preventable harm.

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Developed under the guidance of an expert panel, the Leapfrog Group uses 27 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to assign a letter grade to hospitals across the U.S. on their overall ability to keep patients safe from preventable harm. In the Fall 2018 report of approximately 2,600 hospitals, 32 percent earned an “A,” 24 percent earned a “B,” 37 percent a “C,” 6 percent a “D” and 1 percent an “F.”

Catholic Health’s Quality & Patient Safety Department manages thousands of quality measures, which organizations like the Leapfrog Group use to rate hospitals on the care and service they provide. This information is also used within Catholic Health to continuously monitor and improve quality outcomes throughout its hospitals.

“There are many sources of public and independent quality reporting and we encourage patients to use these tools to compare hospitals and make more informed healthcare decisions,” said John Kane, Senior Vice President of Quality & Patient Safety for Catholic Health. “The Leapfrog Safety Grade is an excellent yardstick for us to measure ourselves against the best hospitals in the country as we move one step closer to achieving straight A’s throughout our system.”

For more information on hospital safety, as well as individual hospital grades and rankings, please visit www.hospitalsafetygrade.org.

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About Catholic Health

From delivering more babies than any other provider in the region; to offering the area’s widest network of comprehensive cardiac, stroke, and orthopedic services; to providing a broad range of services for aging seniors; Catholic Health cares for hundreds of thousands of Western New Yorkers at dozens of locations throughout Erie and Niagara counties. Its healthcare network includes Kenmore Mercy Hospital, Mercy Hospital of Buffalo, Mount St. Mary’s Hospital, and Sisters of Charity Hospital and its St. Joseph Campus; along with a complete continuum of Home & Community Based Care services, including skilled nursing and subacute rehab facilities, home care agencies, and diagnostic and treatment centers. For more information, visit www.chsbuffalo.org.

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.