

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**May 20, 2019****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

Three Catholic Health hospitals receive "A" Safety Grades in spring 2019 report

Catholic Health has once again received Buffalo Niagara Region's highest cumulative overall score in The Leapfrog Group's spring 2019 Hospital Safety Grade Report and the only "A" Safety Grades in Erie and Niagara counties. In the national report released last week, Catholic Health hospitals earned three of only 11 "A" Safety Grades that were given in all of New York State.

Topping the list of area hospitals, Kenmore Mercy Hospital; Sisters of Charity Hospital, St. Joseph Campus; and Mount St. Mary's Hospital all earned "A" Safety Grades. It is the eleventh consecutive "A" grade for Kenmore Mercy. Sisters of Charity Hospital's Main St. Campus and Mercy Hospital of Buffalo received a Grade of "B."

"Quality and patient safety drives everything we do in Catholic Health and these independent ratings are the benchmark by which we measure our success, not only locally, but among the best hospitals in the nation," said Mark Sullivan, President & CEO of Catholic Health. "I'd like to thank our physicians, nurses, clinical professionals, support staff, leadership team and board of directors for their commitment to superior patient care and for setting the highest standards of 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 and most influential employers and purchasers of health-care, to improve 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.

Developed under the guidance of an expert panel, the Leapfrog Group uses 27 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to arrive at their findings. In the spring 2019 report, The Leapfrog Group contracted with the Johns Hopkins Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality to update its estimate of "avoidable deaths" due to medical errors and other preventable harm. Researchers found

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that if all hospitals had an avoidable death rate equivalent to “A” hospitals, 50,000 American lives would have been saved.

In addition to the safety data reviewed by The Leapfrog Group, Catholic Health’s Quality & Patient Safety Department is responsible for thousands of quality measures to continuously monitor patient care and improve outcomes in its hospitals, nursing homes and home care agencies. “For the past decade, Catholic Health has been an area leader in quality reporting transparency because it is the right thing to do and helps patients make more informed healthcare decisions,” said Hans Cassagnol, MD, MMM, Catholic Health’s Chief Physician Executive.

“Healthcare quality and patient safety is a never-ending journey, and we challenge ourselves every day to be better and improve the care we provide our patients and community,” he added. “We welcome the opportunity to compare ourselves against the top performing hospitals in the country to raise the bar here in Western New York and ensure our patients receive the best care possible.”

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 than 6,000 babies each year; 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.