**More News Media Coverage Needed on Hospital Safety Scores**

Ten hospitals in the greater Iowa area received an “A” on the most recent national Hospital Safety Scores. Congratulations to all of them.

Those hospitals receiving an ” A” were: Mercy Medical Center, Cedar Rapids; Genesis Medical Center, Davenport; Trinity Medical Center at Terrance Park, Bettendorf; Grinnell Regional Medical Center, Grinnell; Mary Greeley Medical Center, Ames; Mercy Medical Center, Dubuque; Spencer Municipal Hospital, Spencer; St. Mary’s, Rochester, MN; Mayo Clinic Methodist, MN and Alegent Health Bergan Mercy Hospital, Omaha.

The Hospital Safety Score grades hospitals on how safe they are for patients. Over 2,600 hospitals across the U.S. were graded. Each A, B, C, D or F score assigned to a hospital comes from The Leapfrog Group which used an analysis of infections, injuries, and medical and medications errors that frequently cause harm or death during a hospital stay.

The Leapfrog Group worked under the guidance of a nine member Blue Ribbon Expert Panel to select measures and develop the scoring methodology. The Panel is made up of patient safety experts from across the country. For more information on the Hospital Safety Score, or to find out the score of your local hospital, visit [www.hospitalsafetyscore.org](http://www.hospitalsafetyscore.org)

It is estimated that medical mistakes cost the U.S. $17 billion per year. According to a recent report in *Health Affairs*, as many as one-third of hospital visits lead to hospital related injuries. These types of injuries can increase the risk of complications and patient death

This breakthrough event by The Leapfrog Group in public reporting of Hospital Safety Scores promises to improve patient safety in Iowa hospitals and others across the U.S. Unfortunately, it has been under reported so far by Iowa’s news media. The next set of Hospital Safety Scores is to be released in April. We hope the news media across Iowa will report on these results. This free, public information is too important to be overlooked and is a valuable resource for hospital patients and their loved ones.

Garth Bowen, Co-Chair Bonnie Pisarik, Co-Chair

Iowa Health Buyers Alliance Iowa Health Buyers Alliance

**About The Iowa Health Buyers Alliance**; The IHBA ([www.ihbaonline.org](http://www.ihbaonline.org)) is an association of health care consumers and purchasers working together for better health, better health care and better value. We support a patient centered health system, improved care quality, wellness and increased transparency and public disclosure.Our members include public and private employers, labor organizations and consumer groups**.**

**About The Leapfrog Group** The Hospital Safety Score is an initiative of The Leapfrog Group ([www.leapfroggroup.org](http://www.leapfroggroup.org)), a national nonprofit organization using the collective leverage of large purchasers of health care to initiate breakthrough improvements in the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for Americans. The flagship Leapfrog Hospital Survey allows purchasers to structure their contracts and purchasing to reward the highest performing hospitals. The Leapfrog Group was founded in November 2000 with support from the Business Roundtable and national funders, and is now independently operated with support from its purchaser and other members.