

# These 25 hospitals got the top grade in safety ratings



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New Jersey hospitals collectively [saw a slight improvement](#) in their safety "report card," in data released Monday, bringing their grades up from a drop last spring.

Although the hospitals are tied for 17<sup>th</sup> nationally, that still puts them [above the national average as a group](#), as about a third of the 68 hospitals that share data with a non-profit group received an 'A' grade.

Three hospitals – down from five – maintained their bragging rights by keeping their streak of straight As alive from 2013, when the grades were first issued: Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, Saint Barnabas Medical Center, and Jersey City Medical Center.

The safety grades are compiled by the Leapfrog Group, which was formed by employers and public health experts who were concerned about the number of avoidable safety problems at hospitals – infections, medication errors, an ill-trained staff.

The group [measures safety](#) based on how likely patients are to get a hospital-acquired infection, have to return to the hospital after high-risk surgery, or be given the wrong medication.

In New Jersey, 25 hospitals received an A, 15 received a B, 25 received a C, and three were given a D.

"There's nothing dramatic in terms of changes from the Spring report – 11 hospitals improved at least one grade, eight received a lower grade, and 47 remained the same," said Aline Holmes, senior vice president of clinical affairs for the New Jersey Hospital Association. "We continue to be proud of the work being done in our members' hospitals to provide the best care possible."

The Leapfrog group's website, [www.leapfrog.org](http://www.leapfrog.org), lets prospective patients research the safety scores of hospitals in their region.

Englewood's chief population health officer, Kathleen Kaminsky, said the hospital achieves its high score by emphasizing safety with everyone from the board of trustees to all its employees.

"This is not a couple people trying to make it happen," she said. "It's not the survey that's twice a year. It's something that we focus on every day."

Three hospitals in the state received a 'D' grade – two of which were in the process of changing ownership when they were evaluated:

- HackensackUMC at Pascack Valley reopened in 2013 after being acquired by the parent company of neighboring Hackensack University Medical Center. The hospital chose not to submit data to the Leapfrog survey from those opening years, according to Emily Holliman, CEO of the hospital.

"Unfortunately, not submitting the data skewed our results ultimately resulting in the 'D' rating," she said. Noting that in other rating systems the hospital is above the national average, she predicted the hospital's next Leapfrog grade would be better.

- Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark was sold to Prime Healthcare, a for-profit company, this past May. That meant some of the information submitted to Leapfrog reflected the hospital's operation before the sale.

"In the areas of the Leapfrog report that cover a more recent period under Prime Healthcare's ownership, the report shows we have made vast improvements in our processes in a short period of time," said Dr. Claudia Komer, the hospital's chief medical officer.

- A second Newark hospital, University Hospital, dropped from a 'C' to a 'D' in this report.

"The Leapfrog letter grades are based on data that is one year outdated, and are based on a methodology that is controversial," said a statement released by the hospital's spokeswoman. "While the high quality work and outstanding outcomes of University Hospital are not reflected in the Leapfrog scores, the executive leadership team is revamping the way our data are documented, coded, captured and measured so that the Leapfrog scores more accurately reflect the high level of clinical excellence at University Hospital."

## Leapfrog Safety Scores, Fall, 2016

Hospital	City	Fall 2016
Atlanticare Regional Medical Center_Mainland Campus	Pomona	A
Bayshore Community Hospital	Holmdel	C
Cape Regional Medical Center	Cape May Court House	B
Capital Health Medical Center _ Hopewell	Pennington	C
Capital Health Regional Medical Center	Trenton	B
CarePoint Health_Bayonne Medical Center	Bayonne	B
CarePoint Health_Christ Hospital	Jersey City	A
Carepoint Health_Hoboken University Medical Center	Hoboken	B
CentraState Medical Center	Freehold	C

Hospital	City	Fall 2016
Chilton Medical Center	Pompton Plains	C
Clara Maass Medical Center	Belleville	B
Community Medical Center of Toms River	Toms River	C
Cooper University Health Care	Camden	C
Englewood Hospital and Medical Center	Englewood	Straight A's
Hackensack University Medical Center	Hackensack	B
Hackensack University Medical Center at Pascack Valley	Westwood	D
HackensackUMC Mountainside	Montclair	C
HackensackUMC Palisades	North Bergen	C
Hackettstown Regional Medical Center	Hackettstown	C
Holy Name Medical Center	Teaneck	A
Hunterdon Medical Center	Flemington	B
Inspira Medical Center Elmer	Elmer	A
Inspira Medical Center Vineland	Vineland	A
Inspira Medical Center Woodbury	Woodbury	A
Jersey City Medical Center_Barnabas Health	Jersey City	Straight A's
Jersey Shore University Medical Center	Neptune	C
JFK Medical Center	Edison	B
Kennedy University Hospital _ Cherry Hill Campus	Cherry Hill	A
Kennedy University Hospital _ Stratford Campus	Stratford	A
Kennedy University Hospital _ Washington Township Campus	Turnersville	A
Lourdes Medical Center of Burlington County	Willingboro	C
Meadowlands Hospital Medical Center	Secaucus	C

Hospital	City	Fall 2016
Memorial Hospital of Salem County	Salem	C
Monmouth Medical Center	Long Branch	A
Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus	Lakewood	C
Morristown Medical Center	Morristown	A
Newark Beth Israel Medical Center	Newark	C
Newton Medical Center	Newton	A
Ocean Medical Center	Brick	B
Our Lady of Lourdes Medical Center	Camden	B
Overlook Medical Center	Summit	B
Raritan Bay Medical Center of Old Bridge	Old Bridge	C
Raritan Bay Medical Center of Perth Amboy	Perth Amboy	C
Riverview Medical Center	Red Bank	A
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital	New Brunswick	B
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton	Hamilton	C
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Rahway	Rahway	B
Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset	Somerville	A
Saint Barnabas Medical Center	Livingston	Straight A's
Saint Clare's Hospital of Denville	Denville	C
Saint Clare's Hospital of Dover	Dover	B
Saint Michael's Medical Center	Newark	D
Saint Peter's University Hospital	New Brunswick	A
Shore Medical Center	Somers Point	A
Southern Ocean Medical Center	Manahawkin	C
St. Francis Medical Center of Trenton	Trenton	B

Hospital	City	Fall 2016
St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center	Paterson	C
St. Joseph's Wayne Hospital	Wayne	C
St. Luke's Warren Campus	Phillipsburg	C
St. Mary's General Hospital	Passaic	C
The Valley Hospital	Ridgewood	A
Trinitas Regional Medical Center	Elizabeth	C
University Hospital	Newark	D
University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro	Plainsboro	A
Virtua Marlton Hospital	Marlton	A
Virtua Memorial Hospital	Mount Holly	A
Virtua Voorhees Hospital	Voorhees	A