



## JERSEY CITY MEDICAL CENTER

**BY SUSAN K. LIVIO**  
NJ ADVANCE MEDIA

Patients are less likely to develop an infection, get the wrong medication or fall inside a New Jersey hospital than they were a year ago, according to the latest national report card released yesterday that ranked the state 15th best for protecting patients from harm.

Of the 68 hospitals evaluated by the Leapfrog Group, a non-profit health care watchdog organization, 27 earned an A and 20 earned a B, up by two and five hospitals respectively since the last report issued in the fall.

There were 7 fewer C's, and just three D's, the same number since the last report, Leapfrog said.

### HOW NEW JERSEY RANKS IN THE NATION

New Jersey rose from 22nd to 15th best from a year ago, based on the number of hospitals that earned an A.

Maine, Hawaii, Oregon, Wisconsin and Idaho ranked in the top five; North Dakota, Washington D.C., Delaware and Alaska were tied for 47th or last

place, for earning no A's, according to the report.

The grade is based on 30 measures recommended by medical experts which include infection rates, wound care, adequate nurse and physician staffing and patient surveys about their communication and interaction with hospital staff.

### THE BREAKDOWN: HOW N.J. HOSPITALS SCORED

#### SLIPPING

Five hospitals dropped at least one grade from last fall, including Bayonne Medical Center, which fell to a C

#### ON THE UPSWING

Thirteen hospitals improved their grades from the fall, including HackensackUMC at Pascack Valley in Westwood, from D to B

#### THE A TEAM

These hospitals received the top grade for protecting patients from harm. N.J. had 27 hospitals that earned an A, including Christ Hospital in Jersey City; Englewood Hospital and Medical Center; Holy Name Medical

Center in Teaneck; Jersey City Medical Center-RWJBarnabas Health; and Valley Hospital in Ridgewood.

#### NEAR THE TOP

Twenty hospitals in N.J. earned a B, including Hoboken University Medical Center; Hackensack University Medical Center; and HackensackUMC at Pascack Valley in Westwood;

#### IN THE MIDDLE

Eighteen hospitals got a grade of C, including Bayonne Medical Center; HackensackUMC Palisades in North Bergen; Hackettstown Regional Medical Center; and Meadowlands Hospital Medical Center in Secaucus.

#### JUST MADE IT

Three N.J. hospitals earned a score of D: Memorial Hospital of Salem County in Salem; Saint Michael's Medical Center in Newark; and University Hospital in Newark. No hospitals in New Jersey received an F.

#### JERSEY CITY MEDICAL CENTER

Jersey City Medical Center's Chief Operating Officer Michael Prilutsky said the hospital's



straight-A streak is no happy accident.

How the hospital is meeting each of Leapfrog's 30 safety metrics is scrutinized by a quality council and a safety council, and a plan is developed that involves "every single employee – from the CEO to the housekeepers." He said. "To support that focus, we put our money where our mouth is," paying out a bonus at the end of the year.

"We run a daily safety huddle from all the key executive and department directors. We review what is going on in terms of patient safety," Prilutsky said.

"Every single employee understands it will potentially affect their pay," he said. "What they do on a daily basis contributes to the success of keeping the string of A's going."

Jersey City Medical Center, owned by RWJBarnabas Health, was once on the verge of going under. It is the only nonprofit hospital that remains in Hudson County.