



**St. Bernard Hospital Statement
Leapfrog Group Hospital Grades
April 29, 2021**

Today, the Leapfrog Group, a national non-profit organization that issues grades for quality and safety in hospital patient care, released its latest grades. According to its rating, St. Bernard Hospital received an “F” grade. St. Bernard’s executive leadership, hospital staff and employees were disappointed and surprised by this rating. We did not volunteer to participate in the Leapfrog survey process for their assessment.

We have many processes and safeguards in place to protect our patients from harm and they reflect our commitment to high quality, safe care. St. Bernard Hospital has maintained accreditation with the Joint Commission since 1958 and regularly meets the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions of Participation.

Given that this is the first time we’ve received a grade in almost ten years, we will take it as a learning opportunity. To start, St. Bernard Hospital will immediately take steps to address the categories covered in the Leapfrog survey and ensure that all information we have about our safety and quality performance is considered in the grading process. We will look at all the components of the grade to determine gaps in information we can fill as well as opportunities for improvement.

As a safety-net hospital, we fill a much-needed gap on Chicago’s South Side, and we will continue to do so. We also value the trust that our patients and community have in the services we provide, and we don’t take that for granted. We acknowledge that continued improvement is critical for us to keep the community’s trust. At the same time, we also know residents of the South Side of Chicago deserve to go to hospitals that can afford to invest in all the measures that the Leapfrog Group assesses, just as residents of Streeterville and Lincoln Park do. This is yet another reason why transformation of care on the South Side is urgently important. Ensuring safe care is a matter of health equity.

In the coming weeks and months, we will continue to keep our community informed of the vital services we provide to South Side residents who need them most. We will also demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing safe and quality patient care for the community that we serve.