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## **St. Mary Medical Center Awarded an “A” for Patient Safety According to Leapfrog Hospital Survey National Performance Measures**

**St. Mary Medical Center of Long Beach**  
1050 Linden Avenue, Long Beach, CA



Long Beach, CA – 11/28/2012 -- St. Mary Medical Center has been awarded an “A” for patient safety as reported today by The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit run by employers and other large purchasers of health benefits. The Group uses 26 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to produce a single score of A, B, C, D or F, which represents a hospital’s overall capacity to keep patients safe from infections, injuries, and medical and medication error.

“Our staff and physicians have adopted many measures which contributed to this outstanding score,” said Thomas Salerno, St. Mary Medical Center President & CEO. “I have personally witnessed an ongoing commitment to compassionate and safety-focused care. I couldn’t be more proud of our employees, our medical staff, our leadership team, and our Community Board, and I’m appreciative of the incredible support from Dignity Health’s patient safety experts.”

Salerno added, “This news that highlights St. Mary Medical Center’s exceptional care should be welcomed by all employers, employees, health plans, and the Long Beach community at large.”

St. Mary Medical Center voluntarily participates in The Leapfrog Group Hospital Survey, which is considered the gold standard in transparent public reporting of hospital performance. To see St. Mary Medical Center’s scores as they compare nationally and locally, visit the Hospital Safety Scores website at [www.hospitalsafetyscore.org](http://www.hospitalsafetyscore.org).

Other organizations that have recognized St. Mary Medical Center this year for top performance include the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, HealthGrades, the Joint Commission, and U.S. News & World Report.

According to Ardel Avelino, St. Mary Medical Center’s Administrative Director of Quality, the hospital’s quality programs and teams are central to the success the hospital has seen this year. They include a Rapid Response Team, which recognizes acute changes and takes immediate action; the ICU Team, which prevents adverse events including ventilator associated pneumonia and central line infections; the Red Team, a hospital task force that reviews adverse events that have occurred at other hospitals in order to test the safety and compliance processes at St. Mary Medical Center; the CMS Core Measures Engagement Program; and other patient safety initiatives. “These programs, together with a dedicated and professional team, have helped us to improve quality and patient safety year after year.”

### **About The Leapfrog Group**

Founded in 2000, The Leapfrog Group ([www.leapfroggroup.org](http://www.leapfroggroup.org)) is 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 of Leapfrog Hospital Survey allows purchasers to structure their contracts and purchasing to reward the highest performing hospitals.

### **About St. Mary Medical Center**

Founded by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in 1923, St. Mary Medical Center, a member of Dignity Health, offers a full continuum of primary and secondary acute care services to the Greater Long Beach community. With more than 600 physicians, 1,432 employees and 389 private rooms, St. Mary is committed to providing a unique balance of leading edge technology, while ensuring dignity and compassionate care of body, mind and spirit to the community it serves. For more information, please visit us at [www.stmarymedicalcenter.org](http://www.stmarymedicalcenter.org).

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