

HALLMARK HEALTH SYSTEM HOSPITALS EARN 'A' GRADE FOR PATIENT SAFETY



Joseph Merlina of Revere has his wristband scanned by Kelly Whiting, RN to ensure he is receiving the right medication and the right dose at the right time.

Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford and Melrose-Wakefield Hospital recently earned an “A” grade in patient safety from The Leapfrog Group, a nationally-recognized organization of major employers and other purchasers of healthcare committed to encouraging safer, higher quality healthcare.

Calculated under the guidance of The Leapfrog Group’s nine-member Blue Ribbon Expert Panel, the Hospital Safety Score uses 26 measures of publicly-available hospital safety data to produce a single grade representing a hospital’s overall capacity to keep patients safe from infections, injuries, and medical and medication errors. The blue ribbon panel is made up of distinguished patient safety experts from across the country including several from the Harvard School of Public Health.

Hallmark Health System (HHS) excelled in many areas including the advancement of nursing practice and patient safety. In this area, HHS dedicated resources for both formal and informal advanced education in the field of nursing. In addition, HHS showed its commitment to preventing medication errors by implementing bedside medication verification, which includes scanning a patient’s hospital bracelet to ensure the right patient is getting the right medication at the right time. HHS pharmacists also meet with high-risk patients before they are discharged from the hospital to go over the medications they are taking and answer any questions or concerns they might have.

Reducing the occurrence of hospital-acquired infections, and more specifically ventilator pneumonia, also contributed to HHS receiving the highest marks from The Leapfrog Group. HHS is part of a national study led by Brigham and Women’s Hospital that is examining the care of patients on a ventilator.



“Hallmark Health System is committed to patient safety and has invested in technology and people to make sure we are successful in providing the very best care to each and every one of our patients,” said Maureen Pierog, MS, RN, vice president of quality improvement and patient safety at HHS. “We are proud to have our efforts recognized by The Leapfrog Group.”

Leapfrog launched the Hospital Safety Score initiative to provide usable information to the public and to stimulate improvements in hospital safety. Scores for more than 2,600 general hospitals were calculated and each was assigned a consumer-friendly grade rating its safety from A to F. An “A” grade is the best hospital safety score.

For more information about other HHS awards and recognitions, visit www.hallmarkhealth.org and select “About Us.”