

# Seven Mercy Hospitals Earn Top Grade From Patient Safety Watchdog Group

SOUTH ST. LOUIS COUNTY



Mercy hospitals each earned an A grade for spring 2024 from The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit watchdog group for patient safety. Three of those Mercy hospitals maintained the straight A status by achieving at least five consecutive A grades. Leapfrog assigns letter grades to hospitals across the country based on more than 30 measures of errors, accidents, injuries and infections as well as the systems hospitals have in place to prevent them.

Mercy Ada, Mercy Fort Smith, Mercy Northwest Arkansas, Mercy Oklahoma City, Mercy Springfield, Mercy South (St. Louis) and Mercy Washington each received A grades. Mercy Fort Smith is a straight A hospital with its 16th consecutive A, Mercy NWA maintained a straight A with its 10th straight A, and Mercy South remains a straight A hospital with its 6th A in a row.

Nationally, only 29% of hospitals achieved an A grade from Leapfrog this spring. In Arkansas, Mercy Fort Smith and Mercy NWA are two of only six hospitals to receive an A. In Oklahoma, Mercy Ada and Mercy Oklahoma City are two of only 11 hospitals to achieve an A. In Missouri, Mercy Springfield, Mercy South and Mercy Washington are three of only 14 hospitals to earn an A.



“Patient safety and high-quality care are priorities in everything we do,” said Kat Nelson, Mercy chief quality officer. “Have an independent organization like Leapfrog validate that we are providing that high level of care is important. And it reflects the efforts of all our co-workers from clinicians to support staff.”



“Everyone who works at Mercy should be proud of these A hospital safety grades,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “It takes complete dedication at every level and an ironclad commitment to putting patients first. I thank Mercy, its leadership, clinicians, staff and volunteers for caring so deeply for its patients and their safety.” The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program focused exclusively on preventable medical errors, infections and injuries. The Leapfrog grade is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

To see Mercy's full grade details and to access patient tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit [hospitalsafetygrade.org](https://hospitalsafetygrade.org) and follow The Leapfrog Group on X (formerly [Twitter](#)) and [Facebook](#).

### **About Mercy**

*[Mercy](#), one of the 20 largest U.S. health systems and named the top large system in the U.S. for excellent patient experience by NRC Health, serves millions annually with nationally recognized care and one of the nation's largest and highest performing Accountable Care Organizations in quality and cost. Mercy is a highly integrated, multi-state health care system including more than 50 acute care and specialty (heart, children's, orthopedic and rehab) hospitals, convenient and urgent care locations, imaging centers and pharmacies. Mercy has over 900 physician practice locations and outpatient facilities, more than 4,500 physicians and advanced practitioners and 50,000 co-workers serving patients and families across Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. Mercy also has clinics, outpatient services and outreach ministries in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. In fiscal year 2023 alone, Mercy provided more than half a billion dollars of free care and other community benefits, including traditional charity care and unreimbursed Medicaid.*

### **About The Leapfrog Group**

*Founded in 2000 by large employers and other purchasers, [The Leapfrog Group](#) is a national nonprofit organization driving a movement for giant leaps for patient safety. The flagship [Leapfrog Hospital Survey](#) and [Leapfrog Ambulatory Surgery Center \(ASC\) Survey](#) collect and [transparently report](#) hospital and ASC performance, empowering purchasers to find the highest-value care and giving consumers the lifesaving information they need to make informed decisions. The [Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade](#), Leapfrog's other main initiative, assigns letter grades to hospitals based on their record of patient safety, helping consumers protect themselves and their families from errors, injuries, accidents and infections. For more, [follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram and sign up for our newsletter](#).*