

Press Release

Mercy Medical Center - Redding named one of the Nation's "Highest Value" Hospitals by the Leapfrog Group

December, 2008

The Leapfrog Group has identified Mercy Medical Center - Redding as one of the nation's Highest Value Hospitals.

Sponsored by CIGNA, Aetna, United Healthcare and Boehringer-Ingelheim, the award is based on a review of over 1,220 hospitals participating in the annual Leapfrog Hospital Survey. The Leapfrog Group is a highly regarded collection of employers advocating for patient safety. They evaluate and identify hospitals providing excellent quality and appropriate use of resources for specific procedures.

Mercy Medical Center - Redding was deemed Highest Value due to their efficiency scores in four specific areas. These include a combination of quality and resource utilization scores for coronary artery bypass graft (CABG), percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI), treatment of acute myocardial infarction (AMI), and pneumonia care.

"We're very excited to be honored by the Leapfrog organization for the efficient care we provide at MMCR", said Rob Hamilton MD, Medical Director of Emergency Services.

"For years our Emergency Department team has focused on making the Emergency Cardiac Program the best it can be. One of our Emergency Physicians, Dr. Federico Grabiell, was responsible for catalyzing our local cardiologists to improve the response time for cardiac emergencies and develop the hospital's Code STEMI Program. In many instances we far exceed national standards on important benchmarks and quality indicators."

To make Leapfrog's list, a hospital must have a top efficiency of care score for at least three of the above four procedures and conditions. Resource use was measured by the hospital's severity-adjusted average length of stay for that procedure, inflated by the readmission rate. Quality scores are based on meeting appropriate processes of care measures, and (for CABG and PCI) hospital volume and risk-adjusted mortality.

"Consumers and purchasers are demanding both quality and cost effectiveness," said Leah Binder, CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "The chosen hospitals demonstrate that it's possible to deliver quality health care and to keep costs lower by using expensive health care resources efficiently."

Mercy Medical Center - Redding Redding.Mercy.org offers the most comprehensive health services in northern California, providing acute care and a full range of special programs to a six-county region. The only Level II trauma center for an area of 22,000 square miles, this vital facility is staffed by specially trained, board-certified physicians. The Center also provides an air ambulance service that quickly transports patients from even the most remote regions of northern California to receive emergency care and other critical services.

"It's gratifying to see that our hospital has been recognized as a national leader", stated Hamilton. "Our team is proud to be acknowledged for that achievement."

Founded in 2000, the Leapfrog Group is currently the only national organization asking hospitals for efficiency information, according to Binder. "We believe it's important to recognize not only good outcomes, but prudent use of resources as well. Quality and efficiency must go hand-in-hand if this nation is ever going to fix its broken health care system."