

# Alabama's Hospital Score Card 2007

**Employers Coalition  
for Healthcare Options**



**"a name worth repeating"**

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This information is not a substitute for individual medical advice from a physician, nor does it address a specific medical situation. The intent of this guide is to provide general information about hospital performance and services in Alabama, which can be used along with other resources to assist you in making informed decisions.



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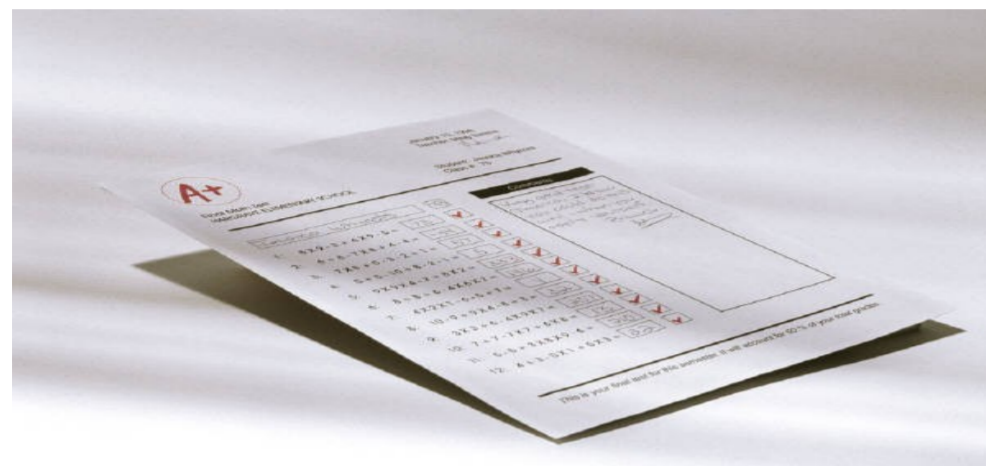


**"a name worth repeating"**

## Why rate Alabama Hospitals ?

Until now, Alabama has been one of only four states in the United States that has not reported public data on hospital quality.

You are looking at Alabama's first healthcare report card.



## Why rate hospitals and other healthcare providers?

There can be a great difference in the quality of care you receive at different hospitals, and your health can suffer or benefit as a result. Hospitals are busy complex places where hundreds of patients receive hundreds of procedures every day. Mistakes can and do happen. In 1999 the Institute of Medicine reported that up to 98,000 Americans die each year from preventable medical errors in hospitals. That is more than automobile accidents, breast cancer and AIDS.

But there is good news! Many hospitals are taking important steps to prevent mistakes and protect patients from unnecessary injury. Even better, you can see this information. Now you can determine the quality of your local hospitals.

## Why are only eight Alabama hospitals shown on the report card?

Every hospital in Alabama was asked to participate. Only these eight agreed to do so. If your hospital isn't shown, call that hospital's CEO and ask why!

## Who is leading this effort to rate hospitals?

### THE LEAPFROG GROUP

The Leapfrog Group is a voluntary program aimed at mobilizing employer purchasing power to alert America's health industry that big leaps in health care safety, quality and customer value will be recognized and rewarded. Among other initiatives, Leapfrog works with its employer members to encourage transparency and easy access to health care information as well as rewards for hospitals that have a proven record of high quality care.

The Leapfrog Group works with over 50 leading medical experts to identify solutions that will improve hospital quality and safety, and then gathers information from hospitals around the country. The Leapfrog Hospital Quality and Safety Survey asks hospitals to voluntarily report on the steps they take to improve patient care. Leapfrog also asks hospitals to report on their performance through its Leapfrog Hospital Insights program. Results of the survey are available for public viewing at [www.leapfroggroup.org](http://www.leapfroggroup.org).

### THE EMPLOYERS COALITION FOR HEALTHCARE OPTIONS:

ECHO is an Alabama organization of healthcare purchasers dedicated to promoting affordable, high-quality medical care. We are committed to reforming the healthcare delivery system in Alabama to reward both high-quality clinical outcomes and efficiency. Formed over 25 years ago in North Alabama, ECHO is the voice for Alabama employers on healthcare issues. More information is available at [www.echoal.org](http://www.echoal.org).

ECHO is designated as Leapfrog's representative in Alabama and has developed this report card using Leapfrog methodology.

**Current Members of The Leapfrog Group as of June 2007**  
**Together, these private and public-sector purchasers represent more than 34 million Americans and more than \$62 billion in healthcare expenditure.**

**Corporations**

Aetna Inc. (Bronze Partner)	Lucent Technologies
Arrowsight (Gold Partner)	Maine State Employee Health Commission
Blue Shield of California (Bronze Partner)	Marriott International, Inc.
Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	Medmined Inc.
Boehringer Ingelheim (Bronze Partner)	Milliman Care Guidelines (Bronze Partner)
The Boeing Company	Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Company (3M)
Caterpillar Inc.	Motorola, Inc.
Cisco Systems, Inc.	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
CITIGROUP INC.	Northrop Grumman
DaimlerChrysler Corporation	Ohio Public Employees Retirement System
The Dow Chemical Company	Qwest Communications International Inc.
EMC	Ropes and Gray LLP (Gold Partner)
Eli Lilly and Company (Bronze Partner)	sanofi-aventis (Bronze Partner)
FedEx Corporation	Southern California Schools Voluntary Employees Benefits Association
General Electric Company	State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio
General Motors Corporation	Texas Medical Institute of Technology (Gold Partner)
Goodwill Industries Central IN	Thomson Medstat (Gold Partner)
Greenville Hospital System (Gold Partner)	Toyota
HCA (Bronze Partner)	USC Consulting Group (Bronze Partner)
Health Alliance Plan (Bronze Partner)	UPS
Healthways (Bronze Partner)	UnitedHealthcare (Bronze Partner)
Heartland Spine & Specialty Hospital, LLC (Bronze Partner)	United Technologies Corp.
IBM	Verizon
Intel Corporation	Washington State Health Care Authority
Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association (LACERA)	WEA Trust
Lockheed Martin Corporation	WellPoint, Inc. (Bronze Partner)

**Health Coalitions**

Buyers Health Care Action Group	Memphis Business Group on Health
The Center for Health Transformation	Mid-Atlantic Business Group on Health
Colorado Business Group on Health	Midwest Business Group on Health
Dallas-Fort Worth Business Group on Health	National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems
<b>Employers Coalition for Healthcare Options</b>	Nevada Health Care Coalition
Employer Health Care Alliance Cooperative (The Alliance)	New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
Employers' Health Coalition	New York Business Group on Health
Florida Health Care Coalition	Niagara Health Quality Coalition
The Health Action Council of Northeast Ohio	Pacific Business Group on Health
HealthCare21 Business Coalition	Savannah Business Group on Health
Health Policy Corporation of Iowa	South Carolina Business Coalition on Health
Indiana Employers Quality Health Alliance	St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition
Iowa Buyers Health Alliance	Tri-State Business Group on Health
Maine Health Management Coalition	Virginia Business Coalition on Health
Massachusetts Healthcare Purchaser Group	Western North Carolina Health Coalition

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM); the Department of Defense (DOD); Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly known as the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA); and the Minnesota Departments of Human Services and Employee Relations also participate as liaisons.

**What is rated on the report card?**

The Leapfrog Hospital Quality and Safety Survey asks hospitals to voluntarily report their progress toward implementing four critical quality and safety practices. Each practice is called a **leap**.

Research commissioned by Leapfrog has shown that if the first three leaps were implemented in every non-rural hospital in the United States, as many as 65,341 lives could be saved and up to 907,600 medication errors would be prevented each year (Birkmeyer 2004). Implementation could also save up to \$41.5 billion annually (Conrad 2005).

The leaps form the cornerstone of the report card.

**LEAP 1: Computerized Physician Order Entry**

By eliminating transcription errors, CPOE reduces medical errors.

**LEAP 2: ICU Staffing**

The best critical care units are staffed by doctors called intensivists who have special training in critical care. The result is better patient care.

**LEAP 3: Evidence Based Hospital Referral**

The more experience a hospital has with certain high risk treatments and procedures, the better they will become at it, and the better results, or outcomes, their patients will have. Select a hospital with lots of experience and you should receive the best results for specific procedures, surgeries or conditions.

**LEAP 4: The Leapfrog Safe Practices Score**

Select a hospital that has a high Leapfrog Safe Practices Score. This means it has put in place 27 additional key procedures to reduce preventable medical mistakes.

Finally, the report card includes two additional measures.

**TRANSPARENCY:** The report card gives hospitals recognition for their efforts to measure, monitor and report their safety and quality of care measures to the public in an easily accessible web-based comparative report.

**ADHERENCE TO THE NEVER EVENTS POLICY:**

Never events are hospital mistakes so obvious and preventable that they should simply never happen. A good example of a never event is operating on the wrong leg. Leapfrog hospitals are asked to commit to never having a never event.

More information on the report card can be found at [www.leapfroggroup.com](http://www.leapfroggroup.com).

# 2007 Score Card

Hospital Name	City	Leap1	Leap2	Leap3								Leap4			Survey Results Submitted
		CPOE	ICU	High Risk Treatments								Safe Practices Score	Transparency Indicator	Adherence to Never Events Policies	
				CABG	PCI	AAA	Esoph.	Panc.	Bariatric	Aortic Valves	NICU				
<a href="#">ATHENS-LIMESTONE HOSPITAL</a>	Athens, AL														5/31/2007
<a href="#">BROOKWOOD MEDICAL CENTER</a>	Birmingham, AL														6/13/2007
<a href="#">COOPER GREEN MERCY HOSPITAL</a>	Birmingham, AL														6/04/2007
<a href="#">CRESTWOOD MEDICAL CENTER</a>	Huntsville, AL														6/13/2007
<a href="#">HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL</a>	Huntsville, AL														6/15/2007
<a href="#">ST VINCENTS HOSPITAL</a>	Birmingham, AL														6/15/2007
<a href="#">THOMAS HOSPITAL</a>	Fairhope, AL														6/15/2007
<a href="#">UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA HOSPITAL</a>	Birmingham, AL														

- Fully implemented Leapfrog's recommended quality and safety leap.
- Good progress in implementing Leapfrog's recommended quality and safety leap.
- Good early stage effort in implementing Leapfrog's recommended quality and safety leap.
- Willing to report publicly; did not yet meet Leapfrog's criteria for a good early stage effort.
- Did not disclose this information.
- Not Applicable - e.g. Pancreatic resection does not apply because hospital does not perform pancreatic resections.
- Not Targeted - Leapfrog members did not request the hospital's response to these questions but the hospital has voluntarily participated in other sections of the survey. For rural hospitals, not all leaps apply. The Safe Practices Score (made up of 27 NQF-endorsed Safe Practices) is the first leap that applies to rural hospitals.
- Hospital participates in other public reporting initiatives