

# BRONX *TimesReporter*

Your Neighborhood – Your News®

75 cents

SERVING THROGGS NECK, PELHAM BAY, COUNTRY CLUB, CITY ISLAND, WESTCHESTER SQUARE, MORRIS PARK, PELHAM PARKWAY, CASTLE HILL



3 BRONX TIMES REPORTER MAY 24-30, 2013

## Mixed grades for Bronx hospitals

### A's on report card for local city hospitals

BY BOB KAPPSTATTER

Five Bronx hospitals have received "A" Hospital Safety Scores from a national independent non-profit group.

The Leapfrog Group's scores are designed to give the public information they can use to protect themselves and their families when they need to visit a hospital.

All three of the borough's municipal hospitals – Jacobi Medical Center, North Central Bronx Hospital, and Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center – received A ratings.

Two non-profit hospitals – St. Barnabas and Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center's Concourse Campus also rated A's.

Bronx Lebanon's Fulton campus, as well as Montefiore Medical Center's Moses and Weiler divisions received B ratings, while

the Montefiore Wakefield Campus rated a C.

Dr. Andrew Racine, Montefiore's senior vice president and chief medical officer, responded to the lower grade ratings by stating that "As with any hospital report card, the Leapfrog methodology has limitations and does not fully reflect Montefiore's comprehensive focus on quality and patient safety.

Although Leapfrog's grade for Montefiore has changed, our actual high patient safety performance scores have remained largely the same. Montefiore is committed to further enhancing patient safety and we strive each day to provide the very best quality care to our patients."

The A through F scores were calculated under the guidance of a nine-member blue ribbon panel of experts using publicly available



data on patient injuries, medical and medication errors, and infections.

The panel includes individuals affiliated with Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, University of California San Francisco, Stanford University and Vanderbilt University.

Of the 2,514 general

acute care hospitals in the United States issued a Hospital Safety Score, 780 received an "A," 638 a "B," 932 a "C," 148 a "D," and 16 an "F."

In addition to identifying 26 measures from among the safety measures publicly reported at the national level – such as falls

and trauma, central line-associated bloodstream infections, severe pressure ulcers, and preventable complications from surgery – the panel also credited hospitals for having the procedures and protocols in place to prevent infections, errors and accidents.

These include strong nursing leadership and engagement, hand hygiene practices, computerized physician order entry systems, adherence to medical and medication protocols, safety first organizational leadership and culture, and the proper ICU staffing.

The A rating for St. Barnabas was good news to its president.

"Scoring an 'A' from an independent, impartial organization like Leapfrog is a great triumph for our entire team and points to the success of our ongoing 'DRIVE to Patient-Centered

Excellence' effort," said Dr. Scott Cooper, President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Barnabas Hospital. "This should give patients the added confidence in knowing that when they come to SBH they can expect to receive the very best care for themselves and their families."

The "DRIVE," which stands for Diversity, Respect, Integrity, Vision and Excellence, is a hospital-wide effort by St. Barnabas to further the concept of patient-centered care, which includes treating every patient with dignity and respect. The campaign addresses the pivotal role cultural beliefs and traditions play in the delivery of hospital care.

For details of the ratings of each hospital, the Hospital Safety Score website is available at [www.hospital-safetyscore.org](http://www.hospital-safetyscore.org).