

**The Leapfrog Group signs on to Stand For Quality,
Affirming the Importance of Measurement, Transparency,
and Payment Reform**

July 15, 2009--The Leapfrog Group signs Stand For Quality today, which shines a spotlight on the importance of health care quality as a critical element in health care reform. Americans need evidence-based, transparent measures of quality to make the right choices of health services for themselves and their families.

As a nation, we have not succeeded in achieving the highest quality health care. The 2008 Leapfrog Survey raises significant questions about excess deaths and wasted dollars: more than 75% of hospitals have higher than expected rates of mortality for many common procedures, and less than a quarter demonstrate adequate efficiency in delivering high quality care. Only one third of hospitals in the Survey have in place the NQF-endorsed measures for preventing hospital acquired infections. (Survey results are available at www.leapfroggroup.org).

To improve quality, tough steps are needed that will engage all stakeholders, including:

- Making quality information transparent and publicly available, and differentiated by provider, so Americans have the tools to make the best choices. Americans have far more information to select a new car than they do a hospital;
- Continuously measuring quality performance so providers are directly accountable for the outcome of their work;
- Setting payment schedules for providers that differentiate between excellence and poor performance.

Stand For Quality is the voice of a remarkable variety of stakeholders demanding transformation in the quality of American health care. It is a bold step toward improving the quality of our nation's health care infrastructure.
