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Ascension Sacred Heart Recognized with 'A' Grade for Safety

Only hospital in Pensacola to achieve the top score

PENSACOLA, Fla. (May 13, 2022) – Ascension Sacred Heart in Pensacola has once again been awarded an 'A' from The Leapfrog Group's Hospital Safety Grade for the Spring 2022. The national designation recognizes the hospital's efforts in protecting patients from harm and meeting the highest safety standards.

Leapfrog released its latest bi-annual safety grades on May 12. Ascension Sacred Heart is the only hospital in the Pensacola area to receive the Leapfrog's top grade.

The Leapfrog Group is a national organization committed to improving health care quality and safety for consumers and purchasers. The Safety Grade assigns an A, B, C, D or F grade to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, infections and other harms among patients in their care.

"This award demonstrates our commitment to safety from the entire team," said Dawn Rudolph, president of Ascension Sacred Heart Pensacola. "Achieving this level of excellence during the stress of the pandemic is especially gratifying. We are proud of our efforts to continue to provide high-quality, compassionate care in the safest possible setting for anyone who needs it."

Leapfrog assigns a letter grade to nearly 3,000 U.S. general hospitals based on over 30 measures of patient safety. Those include safety data on hand hygiene, risk mitigation, and discharge communication, as well as outcome measures such as falls, pressure ulcers, and infections. Leapfrog provides the only hospital ratings program based exclusively on hospitals' prevention of medical errors and other harms to patients in their care.

The latest grades "continue to show significant variation in safety performance across U.S. hospitals," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of the Leapfrog Group. "This variability is a constant reminder that the public must have access to information on which hospitals are safer so patients can make the best decision for themselves and their loved ones."

For more information about the Hospital Safety Grade, including details on individual hospital grades and state rankings, please visit HospitalSafetyGrade.org.

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About Ascension Sacred Heart

Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast includes Ascension Sacred Heart based in Pensacola, Ascension Providence in Mobile, Ala., and Ascension St. Vincent's based in Jacksonville, Florida. Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast operates nine hospitals and more than 100 other sites of care, employing more than 13,000 associates. Across the region, Ascension Providence, Ascension Sacred Heart and Ascension St. Vincent's have served North Florida and South Alabama communities for more than 165 years. In fiscal year 2020, Ascension Florida and Gulf Coast provided more than \$237 million in community benefit and care of persons living in poverty.

Ascension is a faith-based healthcare organization dedicated to transformation through innovation across the continuum of care. As one of the leading non-profit and Catholic health systems in the U.S., Ascension is committed to delivering compassionate, personalized care to all, with special attention to persons living in poverty and those most vulnerable. In FY2020, Ascension provided \$2.4 billion in care of persons living in poverty and other community benefit programs. Ascension includes more than 150,000 associates and 40,000 aligned providers. The national health system operates more than 2,600 sites of care – including 143 hospitals and more than 40 senior living facilities – in 19 states and the District of Columbia, while providing a variety of services including clinical and network services, venture capital investing, investment management, biomedical engineering, facilities management, risk management, and contracting through Ascension's own group purchasing organization. Visit www.ascension.org.