

Wisconsin Hospitals at Their Best

Three named to Leapfrog Top Hospitals list for 2006

by Adelina Sessa

The Aurora Sinai Medical Center in Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority in Madison were among 50 hospitals across the country named to the Leapfrog Top Hospitals list for 2006. The Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee was named to the 2006 Top Children's Hospitals list, which consists of nine children's hospitals in the United States.

The goals of the Leapfrog Group include decreasing preventable medical errors and increasing the quality and affordability of health care. The group promotes the reporting of medical errors, quality, and outcomes. Leapfrog works with medical experts who devise ways hospitals can deliver better care, and then surveys hospitals across the country.

The Leapfrog Hospital Quality and Safety Survey allows hospitals to report ways they have helped to increase the quality of patient care and safety. These results are posted on Leapfrog's website, WWW.LEAPFROGGROUP.ORG, for public viewing. Consumers and employers then utilize this information to make informed decisions about their health care. This resource enables patients to receive the

highest quality health care and gives them the opportunity to choose their hospital based on quality of care.

Any hospital across the country can voluntarily complete this survey. The survey is based on 30 safe practices endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and asks hospitals if they adhere to these four quality and safety practices:

1. Computerized physician order entry
2. Intensive care unit staffing
3. High risk treatments
4. Leapfrog Safe Practices score



The Leapfrog Safe Practices Score is based on the remaining 27 NQF Safe Practices. These relate to improving communication, creating a safety culture, specific care processes, safe medication use and matching care needs to service capabilities.

There is considerable movement toward improving health care quality and patient outcomes across the country. The Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin is contributing to this effort by establishing the Wisconsin Pharmacy Quality Collaborative Program, designed to increase the quality of dispensing and establish a uniform set of pharmacist-provided medication and disease management services. These new standards will allow quality, not convenience or price, to be the guiding factor in the health care decision process, requiring all providers to improve patient safety and outcomes. ●

Adelina Sessa is a fourth-year PharmD student at the UW School of Pharmacy and recently completed a rotation at the PSW headquarters.

"I think that visibility of quality data and quality initiatives is important and I believe that patients will be factoring quality into their health care decisions increasingly in the future."

— Tom Woller, the Regional Director of Pharmacy Services
Aurora Health Care Metro Region

"The ranking should be used as a compass to guide organizations in the right direction, but not as a thermometer to gauge whether they are good or bad."

— Steve Rough, Pharmacy Director, UW Hospital and Clinics

Resignations Leave Vacancies at the PEB

In a surprise move, two of Governor Doyle's appointments to the Pharmacy Examining Board resigned, leaving the board with two immediate vacancies to be filled. Fred Moskol and Richard Verschay, both pharmacist professional members appointed by the Governor, resigned before they were confirmed. The Governor must now look to fill both of these vacancies before the next PEB meeting scheduled for January. Additionally, the term of current PEB chair Mike Bettiga, expires at the end of June 2007. This is Bettiga's second term and he cannot be reappointed. By law, the PEB consists of five pharmacist professional members and two public members. Board members are limited to two four-year terms. PSW is following the appointment process and has been in contact with the Governor's office to offer potential names for consideration.