



For Immediate Release

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Leapfrog ASC Survey Opens, Allowing New Jersey’s Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs) to Show Their Commitment to Patient Safety

NJ Commissioner of Health Baston supports call for New Jersey ASCs to Participate in the Leapfrog ASC Survey

PRINCETON – March 21, 2024 – The [Leapfrog ASC Survey](#) opens on April 1 to enable New Jersey’s 188 eligible ambulatory surgery centers, many of them performing increasingly complex surgeries, to report their safety and quality data and show the public their commitment to patient safety.

Leapfrog launched the annual ASC Survey in 2019 in recognition that more than 60 percent of surgeries in the United States are now performed in ASCs or hospital outpatient departments (“HOPD”). Yet, when it comes to ASCs, little information on safety and quality is publicly available. Moreover, the information that does exist is not easy to access or understand and tends to be outdated. Typically, New Jersey health facility inspectors only inspect ASCs and post their [reports](#) about every three to four years. Whereas the Leapfrog ASC survey is annual and presented in a consumer friendly, searchable dashboard where consumers can compare multiple ASCs and HOPDs to determine where to have a procedure or surgery.

“Leapfrog’s ASC survey addresses a ‘blind spot’ in transparency around patient safety,” said Linda Schwimmer, President and CEO of the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute, a regional leader for The Leapfrog Group. “There is no other understandable, public source for this information. New Jersey consumers need ASCs to participate in the safety survey so they can choose the safest place for their procedures. As we have seen with hospitals, participating in the survey and committing to meet Leapfrog patient safety standards improves care and reduces medical mistakes.”

The New Jersey Health Commissioner Kaitlin Baston, MD also supports ASC transparency and reporting, stating, “There is tremendous value for New Jersey residents having access to greater information about safety measures at ambulatory surgery center facilities, such as medication safety and whether a facility tracks and reports accidents and infections. This data provides the necessary

transparency on safety information that is crucial to making informed health-related decisions and to spearheading quality improvement.”

Today, 100 percent of eligible New Jersey hospitals participate in the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Survey. Yet just five ASCs participated in the 2023 Leapfrog ASC Survey.

ASCs can benefit from their participation in the survey. The survey helps facilities identify best practices and benchmark their progress on safety as compared to their peers. ASCs that are doing well can distinguish themselves and showcase their commitment to patient safety.

The ASCs that have stepped up and participated in the Leapfrog survey find value in it. In a [Quality Institute interview](#), Andrew S. Weiss, CASC, Administrator of Summit Surgical Center and a member of the Leapfrog Group ASC Advisory Committee, shared that ASCs have lacked a benchmarking tool to highlight the quality of their care to their patients and payers. “Leapfrog fit the bill for us,” Weiss said. “I’ve had the opportunity to meet with health care purchasers, and they conclude that ASCs provide great value to their members. But they want to demonstrate that through an impartial source.”

Coronado Surgery Center Owner and Medical Director, Dr. Mike Croveti of Greater Las Vegas said the Leapfrog survey helps the center stand out in a competitive market. “We work very hard every day, and in every board meeting we talk about how we can be better,” Dr. Croveti said. “Now we are actually being held accountable and there’s that stamp of Leapfrog on our successes and on things we can do to improve as well. The patient is always the focus for us.”

Adelisa Perez-Hudgins, MSN, RN-BC, Director of Quality at the Quality Institute, supports health care facilities, including hospitals and ASCs, on best practices, questions, and reviewing survey results. Perez-Hudgins said, “Getting ASCs in New Jersey to participate in the Leapfrog safety survey would improve overall care for patients in the state. By participating in the Leapfrog survey, ASCs are required to look at their data and focus on how they are performing on important safety measures. Once they focus and report publicly, they improve, leading to safer care for all.”

The annual Leapfrog ASC Survey is free and open to ASCs from April 1 to November 30.

About the New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

The New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute’s (Quality Institute) mission is to improve the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for everyone. Our membership comes from all stakeholders in health care. Together with our 100 plus members, we are working towards a world where all people receive safe, equitable, and affordable health care and live their healthiest lives.

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About The Leapfrog Group

Founded in 2000 by large employers and other purchasers, [The Leapfrog Group](#) is an independent, national nonprofit organization that collects and reports hospital and ASC performance.