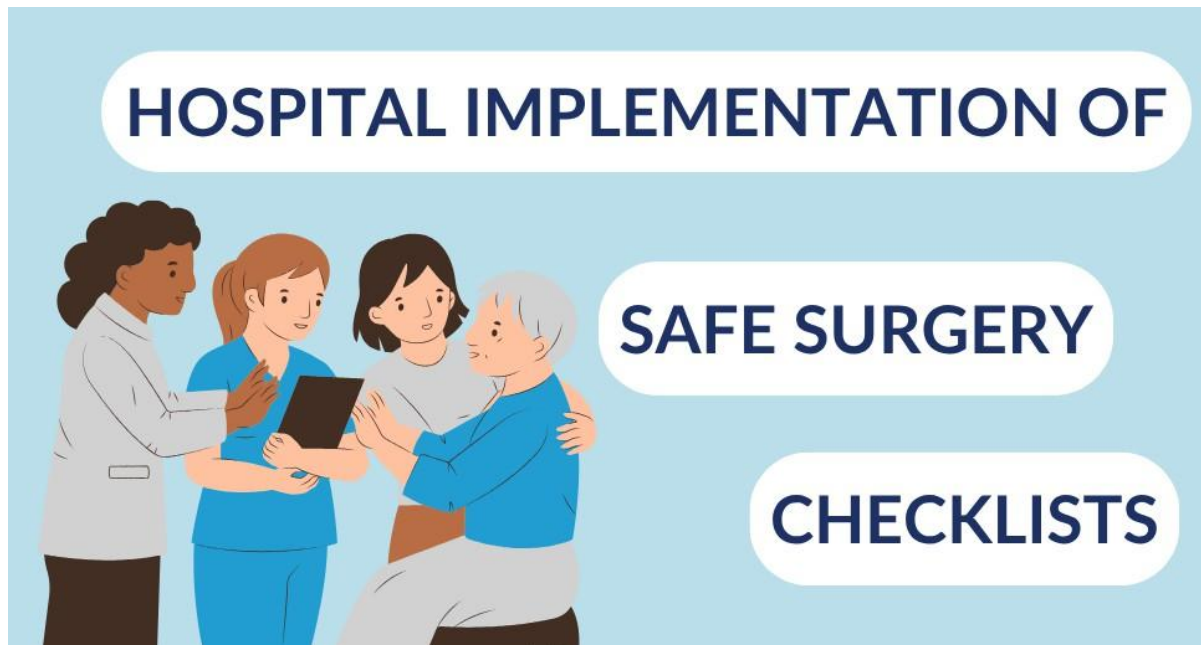




The Leapfrog Group's August Market Insights Report

New Partnership with the American College of Surgeons

Leapfrog has announced a new partnership with the American College of Surgeons (ACS) to recognize hospitals that provide high-quality surgical care for older adults. The new [Recognized Leader in Geriatric Surgery](#) program relies on evidence-based standards from the ACS Geriatric Surgery Verification Program (GSV) with patient safety measures from the Leapfrog Hospital Survey and Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade to help patients, caregivers, employers, health plans and health care purchasers identify hospitals committed to safe, effective, patient-centered surgical care for older adults.

To earn the Recognized Leader in Geriatric Surgery designation, hospitals must participate in the ACS Geriatric Surgery Verification Program, achieve an A or B Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade and demonstrate strong performance on key patient safety measures from the Leapfrog Hospital Survey of particular importance to geriatric surgical care. These include medication safety practices such as

computerized prescriber order entry, bar code medication administration, medication reconciliation and the use of a safe surgery checklist.

The ACS Geriatric Surgery Verification Program helps hospitals improve surgical care for older adults by implementing evidence-based practices that address the medical, functional and social needs of aging patients. Hospitals participating in the program adopt approaches such as geriatric assessments, medication reviews, mobility programs and discharge planning to help reduce complications and support recovery after surgery. The Leapfrog Hospital Survey and Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade complement these standards by evaluating hospitals on nationally recognized measures of patient safety and quality.

Performance on Leapfrog's Safe Surgery Checklist Standard

Leapfrog's Safe Surgery Standard is aligned with the [World Health Organization's Safe Surgery Checklist](#). The Checklist is intended as a tool for use by clinicians to reduce unnecessary surgical deaths and complications. Its use has been demonstrably associated with significant reductions in complication and death rates in hospitals.

To implement the Checklist during surgery, a single person must be made responsible for performing the safety checks on the list. The Checklist divides the operation into three phases: the period before induction of anesthesia, the period after induction and before surgical incision, and the period during or immediately after wound closure but before removing the patient from the operating room.

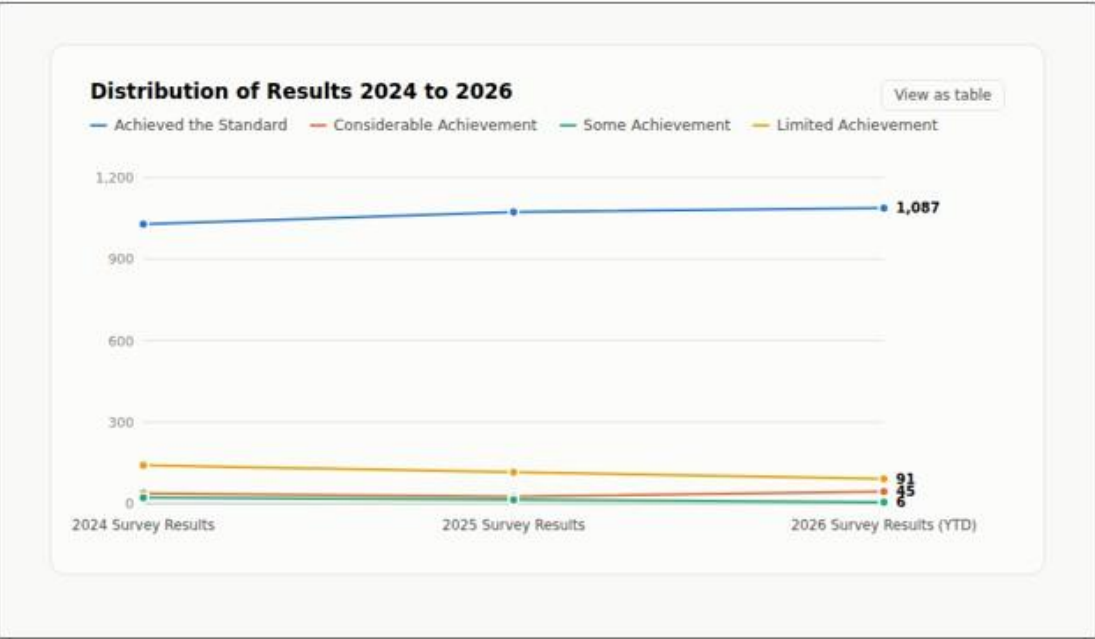
In each phase, the Checklist coordinator must confirm that the team has completed its tasks before it proceeds onward. To achieve Leapfrog's standard, all steps at each of the three phases must be checked verbally with the appropriate team member to ensure that the key actions have been performed and documented. Hospitals are then required to audit their documentation for at least 30 patients who had an inpatient procedure with the last calendar year to ensure compliance.

Hospitals with at least 90% compliance based on their audit Achieve the Standard and hospitals with at least 75% compliance (but less than 90%) earn Considerable Achievement. Hospitals with 50% compliance earn Some Achievement, and hospitals that do not have all 10 checklist items included or who have less than 50% compliance earn Limited Achievement.

This month, Leapfrog examined hospital’s performance on our Safe Surgery Checklist Standard from 2024 to 2026 (YTD), one of the measures included in the new Recognized Leader in Geriatric Surgery Program.

First, we found that while over 80% of hospitals performing inpatient surgery, such as cardiac surgery, cancer surgery, and total joint replacements, are Achieving Leapfrog’s standard, there are still hospitals that are not using the checklist on at least 90% of their surgical patients included in the audit. Additionally, not all hospitals include all 10 essential elements from the WHO Safe Surgery Checklist.

Graph 1: Distribution for the 1,229 hospitals that were reported in 2024, 2025, and 2026 (YTD).



Like other Leapfrog Standards, we do see some performance differences between teaching and non-teaching hospitals.

Table 1: Teaching vs Non-Teaching Hospitals Achieving Leapfrog’s Safe Surgery Checklist Standard.

	Teaching % Achieved the Standard	Non-Teaching % Achieved the Standard	Gap
2024 Survey Results	50.9%	48.3%	+2.6 pts
2025 Survey Results	53.5%	44.8%	+8.7 pts
2026 Survey Results (YTD)	53.9%	45.8%	+8.1 pts

We observed more significant differences in performance between Urban and Rural hospitals.

Table 2: Urban vs Rural Hospital Achieving Leapfrog's Safe Surgery Checklist Standard.

	Urban % Achieved the Standard	Rural % Achieved the Standard	Gap
2024 Survey Results	39.7%	18.6%	+21.1 pts
2025 Survey Results	40.4%	18.4%	+22.0 pts
2026 Survey Results (YTD)	39.9%	19.4%	+20.5 pts

Explore Full Results

To view the complete 2026 Leapfrog Hospital Survey results, visit Leapfrog's ratings website:

[Leapfrog Ratings Website](#)

[Contact Leapfrog](#) for information about licensing this data.

New Tools to Navigate Leapfrog Data

We've launched new features to make exploring Leapfrog data even easier.

The Hopper AI Research Assistant is a tool that allows users to question and explore Leapfrog Survey data and Safety Grades. The AI tool gives users the ability to analyze data as well as create Excel files, PDFs, and PowerPoint presentations. Current data licensees have one complimentary seat available until December 31, 2026. To claim your free seat for the Hopper AI Research Assistant, [contact Leapfrog](#) with the name of the user you would like to have access.

Visit the Hopper to explore this feature and discover more ways to apply Leapfrog data:

[The Hopper](#)

New features on the Hopper!

The HOPPER
Where Leapfrog Data Comes Alive

THE LEAPFROG GROUP
Giant Leaps for Patient Safety

Measure Search
This comprehensive tool allows users to search measures across the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, Hospital Survey and ASC Survey. Filter by facility type, patient type, or dataset, or search for specific measures.

Use Cases
Use cases illustrate how health care organizations, researchers, employers and payors are applying Leapfrog data—from benchmarking safety performance to informing purchasing decisions and driving quality improvement.

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