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## **Cook Children's Medical Center Earns 2020 Leapfrog Top Hospital Award for Outstanding Quality and Safety**

**Fort Worth, Texas**— Highlighting its nationally recognized achievements in patient safety and quality, Cook Children's Medical Center was named a Top Children's Hospital nationally by The Leapfrog Group. Announced today, the Leapfrog Top Hospital award is widely acknowledged as one of the most competitive awards American hospitals can receive. The Top Hospital designation is bestowed by [The Leapfrog Group](#), a national watchdog organization of employers and other purchasers widely acknowledged as the toughest standard-setters for health care safety and quality.

"I'm so grateful to our entire team of health care givers, not just those on the frontline, but everyone who's working to help us drive the highest quality and safety," said Rick W. Merrill, President and CEO of Cook Children's Health Care System. "This award is not a surprise to me because I know the incredible work that goes on here at Cook Children's, and I'm so proud of what we are able to accomplish."

Over 2,200 hospitals were considered for the award. Among those, Cook Children's Medical Center received a Top Children's distinction. A total of 105 hospitals were selected as Top Hospitals, including:

- 9 Top Children's Hospitals
- 29 Top General Hospitals
- 19 Top Rural Hospitals
- 48 Top Teaching Hospitals

The quality of patient care across many areas of hospital performance is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including infection rates, practices for safer surgery, maternity care, and the hospital's capacity to prevent medication errors. The rigorous standards are defined in each year's [Top Hospital Methodology](#).

"Being recognized as a Top Hospital is an extraordinary feat and we are honored to recognize Cook Children's Medical Center this year," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "Despite the extraordinary pressure and strain of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cook Children's Medical Center has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to patients and to the Fort Worth community. We congratulate the board, staff and clinicians whose efforts made this honor possible."

To qualify for the Top Hospitals distinction, hospitals must rank top among peers on the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, which assesses hospital performance on the highest standards for quality and patient

safety, and achieve top performance in its category. To see the full list of institutions honored as 2020 Top Hospitals, visit [www.leapfroggroup.org/tophospitals](http://www.leapfroggroup.org/tophospitals).

### **About The Leapfrog Group**

Founded in 2000 by large employers and other purchasers, The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization driving a movement for giant leaps forward in the quality and safety of American health care. The flagship Leapfrog Hospital Survey collects and transparently reports hospital performance, empowering purchasers to find the highest-value care and giving consumers the lifesaving information, they need to make informed decisions. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, Leapfrog's other main initiative, assigns letter grades to hospitals based on their record of patient safety, helping consumers protect themselves and their families from errors, injuries, accidents and infections.

### **About Cook Children's Medical Center**

Cook Children's Health Care System embraces an inspiring Promise – to improve the health of every child in our region through the prevention and treatment of illness, disease and injury. Based in Fort Worth, Texas, we're proud of our long and rich tradition of serving our community.

Our not-for-profit organization encompasses nine companies – a medical center, two surgery centers, a physician network, home health services and a health plan. It also includes Child Study Center at Cook Children's, Cook Children's Health Services Inc., and Cook Children's Health Foundation. With more than 60 primary, specialty and urgent care locations throughout Texas, families can access our top-ranked specialty programs and network of services to meet their unique needs.

We've worked to improve the health of children from across our primary service area of Denton, Hood, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant and Wise counties for more than 100 years. Based on the exceptional care we provide, patients travel to Cook Children's from around the country and the globe to receive life-saving pediatric care built on leading technology, extraordinary collaboration and the art of caring.

For more information, visit [cookchildrens.org](http://cookchildrens.org).

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