

November 25, 2002

The Honorable Common Council
Finance and Personnel Committee
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: The LEAPFROG Group for Patient Safety Membership

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please introduce a file for the next Finance and Personnel Committee Meeting to authorize the Department of Employee Relations on behalf of the City of Milwaukee to become a member of the LEAPFROG Group for Patient Safety.

The purpose of joining this national organization is to state publicly that the time to reduce medical errors is now, that the City cares about safety for those who receive health insurance benefits, that employees have a role to play in protecting their own safety and driving the health care marketplace to root out preventable mistakes, and that the City intends to reward hospitals and other health care providers who go the extra mile to ensure patient safety.

The LEAPFROG Group for Patient Safety includes thousands of public and private employers throughout the County. Currently the group uses three hospital safety measures:

- ❑ **Computer Physician Order Entry:** this reduces serious prescribing errors by more than 50%.
- ❑ **Evidence-Based Hospital Referral:** by referrals to hospitals offering the best survival odds a patient's risk of dying can be reduced by more than 30%.
- ❑ **ICU Physician Staffing:** Staffing Intensive Care Units with physicians who have credentials in critical care medicine has been shown to reduce the risk of patients dying in the ICU by more than 10%.

There is no cost for membership, just a commitment to work with LEAPFROG and providers to improve the quality of healthcare. The City will work with The Wisconsin Healthcare Purchasers for Quality steering committee, which has been set up through the Alliance in Madison to support the efforts of the LEAPFROG Group for Patient Safety.

Sincerely,
Michael Brady
Employee Benefits

Cc: Dennis Yaccarino, Florence Dukes, and Katrina Whitley