

Our Hospitals Ace Leapfrog Safety Ratings

LVH and LVH–Muhlenberg receive A grades again.

Turkey Toss Details

Get dates, times and FAQs about our turkey giveaway.

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Thank our CIO and senior VP for 21 years of service.

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How Telehealth Improves Wound Care

Technology brings patients and nurses together.



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a blog on LVHN.org containing timely health information and health network news.



Social Security Seminar Scheduled

Register for this VALIC seminar.

Our Hospitals Ace Leapfrog Safety Ratings Again

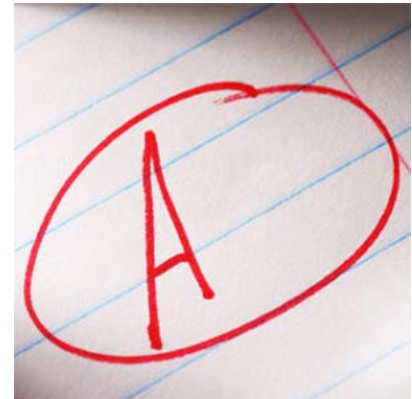
BY [ROBERT STEVENS](#) · NOVEMBER 6, 2015

Lehigh Valley Hospital (LVH) and LVH–Muhlenberg each received an A grade on the Hospital Safety Score from The Leapfrog Group for fall 2015. The ratings reflect how well hospitals protect patients from accidents, errors, injuries and infections.

LVH and LVH–Muhlenberg are the only hospitals in Pennsylvania to receive A's in safety for each marking period since the first report in 2012. Only 31 of 131 hospitals in the state, or 24 percent, were assigned A's in the current report. LVH–Hazleton received a C for this period.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Score is designed to give the public information that is useful for choosing a hospital for care. The score is compiled under the guidance of the nation's leading experts on patient safety. Hospital scores can be viewed and compared by visiting hospitalsafetyscore.org. The score uses 28 measures of publicly available hospital safety data to award an A, B, C, D or F, a score which represents a hospital's ability to keep patients safe from preventable harm. The group reviewed more than 2,500 U.S. hospitals this fall, with only about 24 percent receiving A's for this marking period.

The Leapfrog Group is an independent, national, nonprofit organization using the collective leverage of large purchasers of health care to initiate improvements in safety, quality and affordability of health care for Americans.



Tags: [Hospital Safety Score](#) [Patient Safety](#) [The Leapfrog Group](#)

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12 MAR, 2015

Gobble, Gobble: What You Need to Know About This Year's Free Holiday Turkey Distribution

BY [JENN FISHER](#) · NOVEMBER 3, 2015

A Thanksgiving tradition continues at LVHN with the fifth annual distribution of free Jaindl turkeys to colleagues. This week watch for a card in your home mail that contains the official certificate you will redeem in exchange for a free 12-14-pound frozen Jaindl turkey at one of our drive-up turkey distribution days or by visiting the Jaindl store.

Here are answers to some frequently asked questions (FAQ) about our annual turkey giveaway:

Free Turkey FAQs

Q. When and where are drive-up turkey distributions scheduled?

A. Drive-up turkey distribution takes place on two dates in the Lehigh Valley. A third date is scheduled in Hazleton for LVH–Hazleton colleagues. At the drive-up, only frozen, 12-14 pound turkeys are distributed. You must turn in the free turkey certificate that was mailed to your home.

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2 to 5 p.m. at:



- Dorney Park parking lot
- LVHN–Mack Blvd. parking lot

Thursday, Nov. 19, 2 to 5 p.m. at:

- Dorney Park parking lot
- LVH–Muhlenberg parking lot

Q. Can my colleague pick up multiple turkeys for our unit?

A. Yes as long as your colleague has room in the car and an official certificate for each turkey.

Q. Can I redeem my free turkey certificate at the Jaindl Farms Store?

A. Yes you may redeem the certificate at the Jaindl Farms retail store, located at [3150 Coffeetown Road, Orefield](#), during store business hours. Find the days and hours of store operation by [visiting their website](#). NOTE: Store hours are **limited** in early November. Check the Jaindl Farms website for days and hours the retail store is open, as well as for directions.

Q. If I redeem my certificate at the Jaindl Farms Store, what can I receive in exchange?

You may choose from:

- 12-14 pound frozen Jaindl turkey
- 8-10 pound Jaindl bone-in turkey breast
- 5 pounds of turkey barbecue (Pennsylvania Dutch style or pulled)

Q. Can I donate my turkey or turkey certificate?

A. Yes, you may choose to donate either the certificate or a turkey to the person or charity of your choice. There is no donation process organized through LVHN, so if you wish to donate your turkey or certificate you will need to handle those logistics.

Tags: [Jaindl](#) [Turkey Toss](#) [Turkeys](#)

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Harry Lukens to Retire as Senior Vice President and CIO

BY ADMIN · NOVEMBER 6, 2015

Special Announcement



**This message is from Brian A. Nester, DO, MBA, FACOEP,
president and chief executive officer**

“The house that Harry built” – that’s how Randy Bankes, our director of information services (I/S), described his department upon it being named one of the Best Hospital IT Departments for 2013 by Healthcare IT News. I can’t think of a better tribute to our senior vice president and chief information officer Harry Lukens, who will be retiring next month after 21 years with LVHN.

I would need a couple of pages to list all the amazing technical innovations Harry managed to fruition during his LVHN career. Here are just a few:

- Wireless Network



Harry and his wife, Ro.

- PACS (Picture Archiving and Communication System)
- Advanced intensive care unit monitoring program
- Medication bar-coding
- Computer-assisted physician order entry
- Automated discharge instructions
- Automated Time and Attendance

Under Harry's leadership, our I/S department has become one of the nation's best, receiving 37 national awards. Harry's personal expertise has been recognized as well when he was honored as the first health care CIO to be included among the Top 20 CIOs by the Global Executive Summit in 2010, and as Innovator of the Year by HIMSS (Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society) in 2006 and 2007.

His unique "Wild Ideas" concept encourages his I/S colleagues to achieve their creative best. It's resulted in innovations such as a virtual reality program called "Snow World" that eases burn patients' comforts.

Of course, Harry's final "wild idea" has been the amazing Epic electronic medical records system deployment which has been continuous since February. Harry and his team took on the health network's largest initiative ever and have performed magnificently every step of the way.

But if you know Harry, you know he is primarily a people person. He calls the proudest accomplishment of his career the fact that his department has had a less than 2 percent turnover rate over the last 15 years. Believing we should give back, he's created monthly community outreach programs in which his department members eagerly participate. He also developed the Children's Care Alliance, a coalition of local school districts and health systems dedicated to ensuring every child has access to care.

He created a weekly jeans day and a monthly bagel day, just as a means to show staff his appreciation. When a member of his team lost a daughter to cancer a few years ago, Harry and his wife, Ro, created a memorial fund in her honor.

Harry Lukens is a special man, and we've been blessed to have him among us for two decades. We wish him well as he spends more quality time with his wife, his grandchildren and his fishing rod.

We have conducted a national search for Harry's replacement and will have news to share about that search next week.

Tags: [chief information officer](#) [CIO](#) [Harry Lukens](#) [I/S](#) [Information Services](#) [Retirement](#)

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Introducing the New and Improved Anderson Courtyard

BY [TED WILLIAMS](#) · NOVEMBER 5, 2015



The Anderson Courtyard – the outdoor open space on the third floor of LVH–Cedar Crest’s Anderson Pavilion – has been undeveloped since the pavilion opened in 1986. Some colleagues have suggested it would make a great spot for gardens or special landscaping. Others saw it potentially as a nice out-of-the-way area to take a break if a few amenities could be added.

In late September, some tables and chairs were added to the 20-foot by 50-foot space so colleagues can enjoy lunch or simply get outdoors for some fresh air. The plan is to add a few planters next spring to create a little more atmosphere.

“After being open for so many years, we decided to add the tables after a colleague had suggested it a few months ago,” says Brian Hardner, vice president of facilities, construction and real estate. “It’s the only outdoor space we have on an upper floor on the entire campus.”

Hardner says more elaborate suggestions wouldn’t work because the concrete slab underneath the courtyard wouldn’t support the weight of the soil and water required for significant landscaping. “This is probably the best use for such a space, and we were able to find a way to make it happen,” he says. “My only regret is we couldn’t get to it sooner because in a few weeks we’ll have to bring in the tables for the winter months.”

Tags: LVH-Cedar Crest

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Estate Jewelry Trunk Sale, Sports Accessories and Collectibles Sale Scheduled for LVH–Cedar Crest



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Pedestrian Walkway Available as Part of LVH-Muhlenberg Parking Expansion

BY [TED WILLIAMS](#) · NOVEMBER 5, 2015

A new pedestrian walkway on the north side of the LVH–Muhlenberg campus is now available for colleague use while the first phase of the parking expansion project in that area continues.

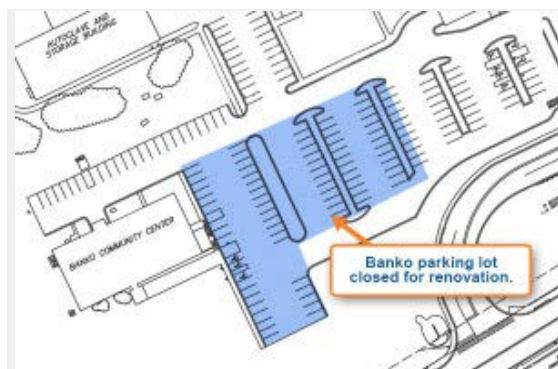
As noted in the map above, the walkway circumvents the project, which covers the stone portion of the north lot to the west of the Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Hospital building, which has been fenced off for paving, storm water management and site lighting work. During this phase, parking has been shifted north of this area into the paved portion of the lot.

The temporary walking path is in place to assure the safety of pedestrians around the work area. Please look for signage directing you to the walkway.

This first phase of the parking lot expansion project is expected to continue until winter weather issues force its suspension. The entire parking lot project should be concluded by August.



Additionally, the parking area that had remained available near the Banko building on the south side of the campus will be closed beginning Monday, Nov. 9, while renovations in that area move into full gear. The first phase of the Banko building demolition will begin with the roof on Tuesday, Nov. 10. The remainder of the building demolition is scheduled to begin Tuesday, Nov. 17.



[Click to enlarge map.](#)

Tags: [Construction](#) [LVH-Muhlenberg](#)

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[Building Demolition Scheduled at LVH-Muhlenberg](#)

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LVH-Muhlenberg Parking Lot Expansion Project
Begins Oct. 5

1 OCT, 2015

Colleagues Can Enjoy Massage Services 20% off at LVHN Fitness in November

BY [KYLE HARDNER](#) · NOVEMBER 2, 2015

The holidays are just around the corner. So too are family, friends, parties and presents. It's a fun time, and it's exhausting too.

So before the holiday rush becomes too crazed, take time out for yourself. Get that massage you've always wanted. In November, massage services at [LVHN Fitness—One City Center](#), [LVHN Fitness—Cedar Crest](#) and [LVHN Fitness—Muhlenberg](#) are 20 percent off for colleagues. Colleagues are also eligible for reimbursement of massage services through Culture of Wellness benefits.



Choose from a full menu of options, including:

- Hot stone therapy massage

- Reiki energy massage
- Therapeutic massage
- Neck, back and shoulder massage
- Sports massage
- Foot massage
- Pregnancy massage

Afterward, you'll feel refreshed and ready for whatever the holiday season has to offer.

Book your appointment in November and, as long as it's scheduled before Dec. 31, you can redeem your 20 percent discount. Call to book your appointment.

LVHN Fitness—One City Center

484-862-3001

LVHN Fitness—Cedar Crest

610-402-3699

LVHN Fitness—Muhlenberg

484-884-2851

Tags: [COW](#) [Culture of Wellness](#) [LVHN Fitness](#) [LVHN-One City Center](#) [Massage](#)

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Half-Off Membership to LVHN Fitness–One City Center in September

26 AUG, 2015

Join Our Veterans Day Celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 11

BY [GERARD MIGLIORE](#) · OCTOBER 28, 2015

We owe our freedom to the men and women who honorably serve in our country's armed forces – in war and in peacetime. Veterans Day, established in 1954, is our opportunity to thank all living veterans for their service and sacrifices. The holiday is observed annually on Nov. 11 in recognition of the armistice that ended the major hostilities of World War I, which was signed at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

Hundreds of LVHN colleagues have served or are still serving in our armed forces. We'll be honoring them and all veterans during a celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 11, from 11-11:20 a.m. in the LVH–Cedar Crest auditorium. This live ceremony will be simulcast to the following locations:

- **LVH–Muhlenberg** (ECC B)
- **LVH–17th Street** (Auditorium)
- **LVHN–Mack Boulevard** (Auditorium)
- **LVHN–One City Center** (Renaissance Hotel, Fifth Floor Ballroom)



- **LVH–Hazleton** (Employment & Technology Center, Third Floor Training Room)

In addition, LVHN veteran champions will be collecting clothing and canned goods at each site to benefit homeless veterans in our area. (Donations are voluntary and are not required to attend the celebration.)

All colleagues are invited to attend and show their support. All service colleagues (active duty military, honorably discharged veterans and members of the guard and reserve) are invited to wear their uniforms (in whole or in part; caps and fatigue jackets acceptable, class A, B or C acceptable) to work on Nov.11. Consult with your supervisor as appropriate if you plan to wear your uniform. If you happen to spot a veteran in uniform, please thank him or her for serving our country.

Help homeless veterans

This year's Veterans Day celebration will feature a new way to say "thank you" to those who serve in the armed forces. For the first time, you'll have an opportunity to donate clothing, toiletries and canned goods to benefit homeless veterans in our area.

LVHN veteran champions will be standing at the doors of each location above to collect donated items from the wish list below. (All donations are voluntary and are not required to attend the celebration.) These items have been identified by [Hope for Veterans](#), an Allentown-based veterans support organization, as those most needed by people who are homeless. Hope for Veterans will distribute the items later this month.



Wish list

*(Please note: All canned goods **must** have pull-tab tops.)*

- Vegetable juice
- Canned tuna
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup (with meat)
- Peanut butter (plastic jars only)
- Bars of soap
- Toothpaste/toothbrush
- Towelettes
- Toilet paper
- Peanuts
- Granola bars
- New thermal/insulated underwear
- New thermal/insulated socks
- New (or slightly used) jeans
- Flannel shirts
- Turtleneck sweaters
- Insulated coats

Boots

- Gloves
- Hats

Tags:

Hope for Veterans

Veterans

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Join Our Veterans Day Celebration on Wednesday,
Nov. 11

6 NOV, 2015

Estate Jewelry Trunk Sale, Sports Accessories and Collectibles Sale Scheduled for LVH–Cedar Crest

BY [TED WILLIAMS](#) · NOVEMBER 3, 2015

Over the years, the Auxiliary of Lehigh Valley Hospital has supported the hospital by operating gift shops and conducting a variety of fund-raising events and activities. If you are a sports enthusiast – or know someone who is – make plans to attend the auxiliary's next sale, which will be held over a four-day period.

Estate Jewelry Trunk Sale

Nov. 10, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Nov. 11, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

LVH–Cedar Crest Jaindl Family Pavilion lower level

Sports Accessories and Collectibles Sale

Nov. 17-19, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Nov. 20, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.



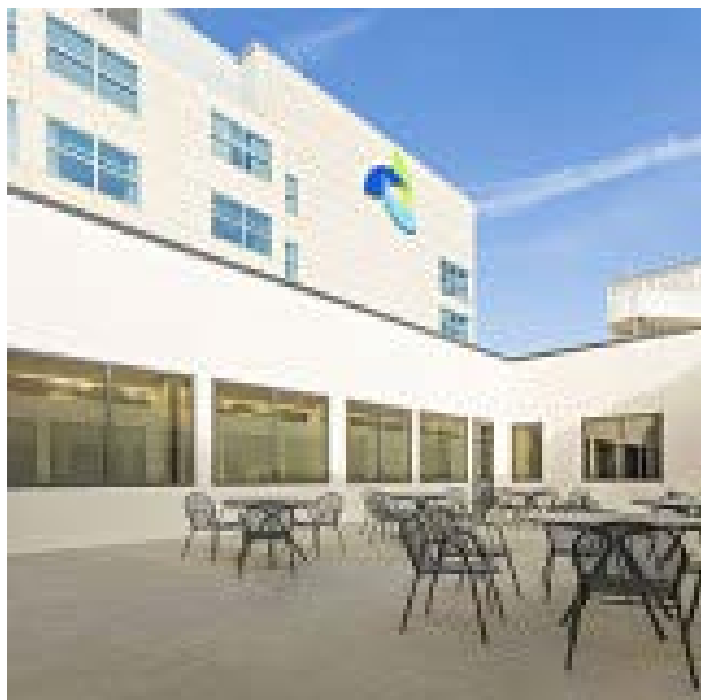
LVH-Cedar Crest Jaindl Family Pavilion lower level

The history of the Auxiliary of Lehigh Valley Hospital

The Auxiliary of Lehigh Valley Hospital has roots that date back more than a century. Thirteen women formed the Auxiliary of Allentown hospital to raise money for the city's first hospital. Then they bought a plot of land at 17th and Chew streets in Allentown, and in 1899, they opened The Allentown Hospital. Today, the Auxiliary of Lehigh Valley Hospital supports two hospitals and is the only one in the nation to support four endowed chairs.

Tags: [Auxiliary](#) [LVH-Cedar Crest](#) [Sale](#)

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How Telehealth Improves Wound Care

BY ADMIN · NOVEMBER 4, 2015

Technology brings wound care nurses to the TSU bedside

It's hard to treat a wound you can't see. That had been the challenge for wound care nurses based at LVH–Cedar Crest when advising colleagues at the transitional skilled unit (TSU) at LVH–17th Street. Now an innovative telehealth system called TeleWound specifically designed for wound care is bridging gaps of distance and knowledge, with early results showing it improves patient care.

Treating wounds is an important aspect of patient care on TSU. When patients come to the unit – often after surgery or acute illness – to undergo rehabilitation with physical, occupational or speech therapy, they may have wounds from a variety of causes. These include moisture-related breakdown of skin due to incontinence, wounds from medical devices, and pressure wounds from extended immobility.

“These tend to be preventable wounds, so we focus on them,” says telehealth clinical coordinator Mindy Brosious, RN, BSN. “The goal is to close wounds quickly.” Wounds categorized as stages 1 and 2 often can resolve quickly.



Angela Latorre, BSN, RN, CMSRN uses a point-and-click camera to photograph wounds on TSU.

“With stage 2, the skin is opened, but it’s still early,” Brosious says. Once a wound reaches stage 3, achieving closure and healing takes longer. “That’s a big stress on patients and a potential portal for bacteria to cause an infection,” Brosious says. “You definitely don’t want to cross that threshold between stages 2 and 3.”

The challenge

Prior to TeleWound going live in December 2014, wound care nurses could only view TSU wounds in person. “Travel time was a constraint,” says certified wound, ostomy and continence nurse Christine Whitehead, RN, CWOCN. “Just dealing with parking might take 10 minutes on each end. Plus, it was a disruption in the flow of our patient care at LVH–Cedar Crest.” As a result, wound care nurses visited TSU only twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays. TSU patients might go several days without wounds being addressed by a wound specialist.

TSU nurses did their best to manage wounds on their own. But differences between, say, stage 2 pressure wounds and moisture wounds can be difficult to assess without specialized training. “Between visits, wounds could progress, or patients could develop new wounds,” says TSU nurse Angela Latorre, BSN, RN, CMSRN. “We needed quicker wound care. The delay was not convenient for patients or ideal for outcomes.”

The TeleWound system addresses multiple issues in a simple way. TSU nurses take two pictures of wounds on which they order wound care consults using a common digital camera. Pictures and background information upload wirelessly to a secure system where wound nurses can access them and provide professional treatment advice remotely. (Photos are deleted from the camera.) In most cases, wound care and TSU nurses talk directly by phone about what each wound is and how it should be treated.

“We now do consults with TSU five days a week instead of two,” Whitehead says. “They’re placing proper wound care orders much faster than before, which prevents wound deterioration and speeds healing.”



Christine Whitehead, RN, CWOCN, reviews the photos and provides consultation.

Instant results

Nurses quickly noticed benefits. “In the months since TeleWound launched, no wounds have progressed from stage 2 to 3, and all wounds have received a consult within 24 hours instead of days,” Brosious says.

Other benefits emerged as well. Previously, wound consults had to be ordered through a doctor, so nurses sometimes weighed whether orders were warranted. “The new system is nurse-driven,” Latorre says, so there’s less hesitation to consult expert colleagues. “Prior to TeleWound, we had 24 wound consults in three months,” Brosious says. “Post-live, we had 25 in one month. We thought, ‘Wow, this system is working and really

making a difference.’”

Increased communication between nurses also has helped TSU staff learn about wounds. “They’re the experts, and they’ve taught me a lot about staging and treatment, like which creams are best for which kinds of pressure ulcer,” Latorre says. “The extra communication and support has been really great.” With technical support from information services, the TeleWound program also is being implemented this fall at LVHN–Tilghman and at the Center for Inpatient Rehabilitation at LVH–Cedar Crest.

“TeleWound is beneficial for everyone,” Whitehead says –“the patients, the TSU nurses and us, because our No. 1

goal is for wounds to get better.”

Tags: [Magnet Attractions](#)

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1 SEP, 2015



A Day in the Life of a Pediatric Nurse: Liz McDonald, BSN, RN

25 AUG, 2015

Social Security Seminars in November

BY [TED WILLIAMS](#) · NOVEMBER 2, 2015

VALIC Retirement, the company managing our retirement plans, will host this seminar at the following locations:

Nov. 10 – 12-1 p.m., LVHN–Mack Boulevard room 6B

Nov. 11 – 12-1 p.m., LVH–Cedar Crest ECC room 5

Nov. 18 – 12-1 p.m., LVH–Muhlenberg ECC room D

Nov. 19 – 12-1 p.m., LVH–17th Street auditorium

Registration is required to attend one of these seminars. [Click here to register](#) and enter one of the following codes:

For LVHN–Mack Boulevard seminar: LVHALL11BA

For LVH–Cedar Crest seminar: LVHALL11AO

For LVH–Muhlenberg seminar: LVHBET11AL



For LVH-17 Street seminar: LVHALL11AL

VALIC Retirement advisors are available to help you at:

LVH-Cedar Crest:

Jeff Hofmann: 610-402-8801

Michael Ryan: 610-402-8801 (advisor for LVPG colleagues)

LVH-17th Street:

Tim Schroyer: 610-969-2625

LVH-Muhlenberg and Health Network Laboratories:

Kevin Gertz: 610-392-9912

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