



ValidationInstitute

2020 Validation Report

Review for: The Leapfrog Group
Valid through April 2021



Company Profile



Category:	Non-Profit
Website:	www.leapfroggroup.org
Year Established:	2000
CEO:	Leah Binder
Company contact:	info@leapfroggroup.org

Description:

The Leapfrog Group is a nonprofit watchdog organization that serves as a voice for health care purchasers, using their collective influence to foster positive change in U.S. health care. Leapfrog is the nation's premier advocate of hospital transparency—collecting, analyzing and disseminating hospital data to inform value-based purchasing.





Claim Assertion for Validation

The Leapfrog Value-Based Purchasing Program creates composite scores reflecting each hospital's performance on safety, quality, and resource use standards, benchmarked nationally. Payers and purchasers can use the scores to compare how individual hospitals deliver value compared with peers nationally. From each composite score, payment can be calibrated to reward the highest performers. The ultimate goal of this program is for higher performing hospitals to be recognized and rewarded through various payment strategies, and for payers to have objective, consistent information upon which to gauge performance. Purchasers such as self-insured entities can also utilize The Leapfrog Value Based Purchasing Program data to either tier or build a narrow network to either steer or concentrate volumes on better performing providers.





Method / Calculation / Examples

The Value Based-Purchasing Program organizes the measures used in Leapfrog's national, annual hospital survey into six "domains:"

- Medication safety
- Inpatient Care Management
- Infections
- Maternity Care
- Inpatient Surgery, and
- Pediatric Care

Each hospital that participates in the Leapfrog Hospital Survey is automatically included in the Value-Based Purchasing Program so that individual hospitals can be compared on:

- VBP Measure Scores – A score ranging from 0 (worst performance) to 100 (best performance) assigned to each measure in the Leapfrog Hospital Survey.
- VBP Domain Composite Scores – A composite score for each domain, calculated by applying a relative weight to each measure score within the domain.
- VBP Value Composite Score – An overall composite score combining all the weighted measure scores in all the domains.



The relative weights assigned to each measure are determined based on the number of patients affected by the measure, the severity of harm being measured or the potential harm when not following clinical guidelines, and resource use (defined as excess cost or cost avoidance) related to the measure. These criteria align with value-based purchasing goals of achieving high quality at the right cost. For each measure in the composite, highest achievement nationally requires both highest quality and lowest use of resources.

For example, the composite includes several measures of healthcare-associated infections, which are weighted heavily. In term of excess cost, infections add excess cost by resulting in additional days in the hospital, additional medications to treat the infections, and readmission risks. In terms of severity of harm, some infections, like central-line associated blood stream infections, can result in severe disability or death. Thus, the Value Score reflects hospital performance on quality and safety measures known to cause significant harm and excess costs. The program's focus on safety and quality in hospitals is similar to Medicare's Hospital VBP program (See: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HospitalQualityInits/Hospital-Value-Based-Purchasing->), which financially rewards hospitals for meeting benchmarks.

The data collection method is a nationally standardized methodology and follows established protocols to ensure reliability. The scoring methodology is the product of published literature and experts such as health economists and represents the priorities of employers and purchasers.



Findings & Validation

This validation is focused on the reliability of the data collected and its connection to value-based purchasing. As such, there are not findings.





Validation and Credibility Guarantee

The Leapfrog Group achieved level 3 validation for Metrics. Validation Institute is confident that **The Leapfrog Group** performs as they state they are willing to provide up to a \$10,000 guarantee as part of their Credibility Guarantee Program*.

Level 1 - Savings

Can produce a reduction of health care spend including the cost of the provider. Product/solution has produced, and replicated a lower cost for healthcare overall or a specific component of healthcare

Level 2 - Outcomes

Product/solution has measurably “moved the needle” on an outcome (risk, hba1c, events, employee retention, etc.) of importance.

Level 3 - Metrics

Claim is made that – with sourced, overridable assumptions linked to peer-reviewed or government sources

Level 4 - Contractual Integrity

No outcomes or savings has been shown, but vendor is willing to put a part of their fees “at risk” as a guarantee





Limitations

Responding to the Leapfrog Hospital Survey is voluntary. It is possible that non-responding hospitals, approximately half the hospitals nationally, have differing levels of quality, safety, and value. The composite scores in the Leapfrog Value-Based Purchasing Program compare hospitals against a national benchmark to identify the lowest to highest performance, but the benchmarks cannot incorporate the performance of the non-responding hospitals.





Validation Expiration: April 2021

CERTIFICATE OF VALIDATION

Applicant:

The Leapfrog Group

1660 L Street NW, Suite 308

Washington, District of Columbia, 20036

Product:

The Leapfrog Value-Based Purchasing Program

Claim:

Provide payers objective, consistent information upon which to gauge performance

Validation Achieved:

Level 3 – Validated for Metrics

Linda K. Riddell, MS

VP, Population Health Scientist

Validation Institute

Benny DiCecca

Chief Executive Officer

Validation Institute





About Validation Institute

Validation Institute is a professional community that advocates for organizations and approaches that deliver better health value - stronger health outcomes at lower cost. We connect, train, and certify health care purchasers, and we validate and connect providers delivering superior results. Founded in 2014, the mission of the organization has consistently been to help provide transparency to buyers of healthcare.

To strengthen our offering and provide additional credibility around our service, the **Validation Institute** recently announced a Credibility Guarantee* that offers customers of validated solution providers up to a \$25,000 guarantee. This guarantee confirms that a validated solution provider will, achieve what the validation language on a marketing claim says it will achieve.

