Health News You Can Use: A Reassuring Report on Safety at White Oak Medical Center

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Hospitals save countless lives. They can also be dangerous. Patients can acquire infections there, for example, or can suffer falls when not properly attended.

All hospitals have procedures to reduce these risks, but some do a better job than others. The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit organization that works to improve hospital quality, recently awarded Adventist White Oak Medical Center (WOMC) its seventh straight "A" Hospital Safety Grade. To determine the grade, The Leapfrog Group looked at 31 different safety-related outcome and process measures. For example, WOMC did twice as well as the average hospital in preventing catheter-associated urinary tract infections. It also got the highest possible score for leadership focus and staff cooperation, factors that The Leapfrog Group believes lead to a robust culture of safety. WOMC and its sister institution in Shady Grove are the only non-military hospitals in Montgomery County to attain a grade of A.

In addition, in 2025 WOMC was honored by the Maryland Patient Safety Center, a state-endorsed nonprofit organization, for its systematic, data-driven approach to reducing the number of falls among its patients. This award recognized WOMC's achievement in reducing inpatient falls by 61% between 2022 and 2024. WOMC's ongoing commitment to fall reduction is reflected in its "No Pass" policy. This policy provides that a WOMC staff person, whatever their job might be, may not pass a room with a call light on until they learn what the patient needs and either handle it personally or find someone who can. This promising policy has been emulated in areas of Arbor Ridge.

Having a hospital less than a mile from Riderwood is one advantage of living here. The latest report on safety is reassurance that WOMC is consistently focused on keeping its patients safe.