

BLUE DISTINCTION[®] SPECIALTY CARE BENEFITS

THE SIGN OF QUALITY SPECIALTY CARE



CHOOSE A HOSPITAL WISELY

If you're facing a serious medical procedure or surgery, it's important to have it performed at an experienced hospital. A place where patients have better results when compared to other facilities. How can you choose the right one? Look for the *Blue Distinction Center* designation of quality and the *Blue Distinction Center+* designation of quality and efficiency.

Blue
Distinction[®]
Center

Blue
Distinction[®]
Center+

A NATIONWIDE QUALITY DESIGNATION

Blue Distinction is a designation awarded by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) to hospitals proven to deliver superior results for complicated, costly procedures. *Blue Distinction Centers*[®] have been evaluated to meet strict criteria set by expert doctors and medical certifying organizations.

OVERALL, PATIENTS TREATED AT BLUE DISTINCTION CENTERS HAVE:

- Better outcomes
- Fewer complications
- Fewer readmissions
- Higher survival rates

SPECIALIZING IN SPECIALTY CARE

Blue Distinction Centers for Specialty Care are the core of the *Blue Distinction* program. These facilities are recognized for expert care in bariatric and cardiac care, complex and rare cancers, knee and hip replacement, spine surgery and transplants. *Blue Distinction Centers* as well as *Blue Distinction Center+* are available nationwide.

CHOOSE BLUE AND SAVE SOME GREEN

Choosing a high-quality hospital can lower your chance for complications and shorten your stay, which can help lower the total cost of care. That means, you'll likely pay less out of your own pocket!

YOUR BLUE DISTINCTION SPECIALTY CARE BENEFITS

Your health plan provides special benefit levels for these selected procedures and conditions:

BARIATRIC SURGERY

- Roux-en-Y gastric bypass
- Vertical banded gastroplasty
- Biliopancreatic bypass
- Biliopancreatic bypass with duodenal switch
- Adjustable gastric banding
- Gastric sleeve resection
- Revision of gastric restrictive procedures

CARDIAC CARE

- Inpatient cardiac care
- Cardiac rehabilitation
- Cardiac catheterization, including percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI)
- Cardiac surgery, including coronary artery bypass graft (CABG)

COMPLEX AND RARE CANCERS

Inpatient surgical treatment for 13 complex and rare cancers:

- Bladder
- Bone — primary
- Brain — primary
- Esophageal
- Gastric
- Head and neck
- Liver — primary
- Ocular melanoma
- Pancreatic
- Rectal
- Soft tissue sarcomas
- Thyroid — medullary or anaplastic
- Acute leukemia (inpatient, non-surgical)

KNEE AND HIP REPLACEMENT

- Total knee replacement
- Total hip replacement

SPINE SURGERY

- Discectomy
- Fusion
- Decompression procedures

TRANSPLANTS

- Heart
- Lung (deceased and living donor)
- Combination heart/lung
- Liver (deceased and living donor)
- Simultaneous pancreas kidney (SPK)
- Pancreas (PAK/PTA)
- Bone marrow/stem cell (autologous and allogenic)

FIND A LOCATION

To find a Blue Distinction Center or Blue Distinction Center+, call the Member Service number on the back of your member ID card, use the Provider Search tool on your member website (select the provider and click the **Accreditation and Quality** tab) or go to the Blue Distinction Finder at <https://www.bcbs.com/blue-distinction-center-finder>.

Look for this recognition for hospitals that can help inform you in your search for the right specialty care:

- **Blue Distinction Centers:** Facilities recognized for their **expertise** in delivering specialty care
- **Blue Distinction Centers+:** Facilities recognized for their **expertise** and **efficiency** in delivering specialty care

Both have a proven history of delivering better results than hospitals without these recognitions.

Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement, Blue Distinction Centers for Cardiac Care, Blue Distinction Centers for Bariatric Surgery, Blue Distinction Centers for Spine Surgery, Blue Distinction Centers for Transplants, Blue Distinction Centers for Complex and Rare Cancers, Blue Distinction, Blue Distinction Centers, Blue Distinction Centers for Specialty Care, Blue Distinction, Blue Cross, Blue Shield and the Cross and Shield symbols are registered service marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Highmark is a registered mark of Highmark Inc.

Note: Designation as Blue Distinction Centers means these facilities' overall experience and aggregate data met objective criteria established in collaboration with expert clinicians' and leading professional organizations' recommendations. Individual outcomes may vary. To find out which services are covered under your policy at any facilities, please contact your local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan; and call your provider before making an appointment, to verify the most current information on its network participation and Blue Distinction status. Neither the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association nor any of its licensees are responsible for any damages, losses, or non-covered charges that may result from using Blue Distinction or other provider finder information or receiving care from a Blue Distinction or other provider.