

BLUE DISTINCTION® SPECIALTY CARE BENEFITS

CONTROL YOUR SPECIALTY SURGERY COSTS



Is your medical spending skyrocketing due to members who've undergone serious surgeries, only to experience readmissions, complications or worse? Offering *Blue Distinction* benefits can help direct them to high-quality *Blue Distinction Centers*® for treatment. *Blue Distinction Centers* are proven to have better outcomes than other facilities, which can help you control your costs.

A NATIONWIDE QUALITY DESIGNATION

Blue Distinction Centers have been evaluated to meet strict quality focused criteria that emphasizes patient safety and outcomes set by expert physicians and medical certifying organizations. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) gives two designations to hospitals that deliver superior results—including **fewer complications and readmissions**—for high-risk, high-cost procedures:

- **Blue Distinction Center** hospitals are recognized for their **expertise** in delivering specialty care.
- **Blue Distinction Center+** hospitals are recognized for their **expertise** and **efficiency** in delivering specialty care.

Facilities must reapply for their designation every 18-36 months to maintain consistent national quality. The cost of care is calculated on an episode basis using allowed amounts based on Blue's plans claims data and/or provider contract agreements.

PROVEN BLUE DISTINCTION CENTER RESULTS

Bariatric Surgery

- 11% lower cost for laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding
- 26% lower complication rate

Cardiac Care

- 10% lower mortality rate one month after cardiac surgery
- 21% lower readmission rate for cardiac bypass surgery
- \$2,500 less for outpatient angioplasties

Knee & Hip Replacement

- 14.3% lower 30-day readmission rate
- 21.6% overall cost savings for *Blue Distinction Center+* designations

Spine Surgery

- 17.9% lower 30-day readmission rate
- 22.5% overall cost savings for *Blue Distinction Center+* designations

Transplants

- 8% lower mortality rate one year after heart transplant



Blue Distinction Specialty Care Benefit designs should be considered if you have:

- High utilization in any one of or all six of the specialties.
- A large number of employees located near major metropolitan areas where BDC/BDC+ are located.

ADDRESS THE CONDITIONS MOST PAINFUL TO YOUR BUDGET

Blue Distinction Centers focus on six specialty areas, which account for more than 30 percent of total inpatient hospital expenditures. Choose one or more Blue Distinction Center types to help manage your specific risks.

Bariatric Surgery	Cardiac Care	Complex and Rare Cancers	Knee and Hip Replacements	Spine Surgery	Transplants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass • Vertical Banded Gastroplasty • Biliopancreatic Bypass • Biliopancreatic Bypass w/ Duodenal Switch • Adjustable Gastric Banding • Gastric Sleeve Resection • Revision of Gastric Restrictive Procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inpatient Cardiac Care • Cardiac Rehabilitation • Cardiac Catheterization, including Percutaneous Coronary Interventions (PCI) • Cardiac Surgery, including Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bladder • Bone • Brain • Esophageal • Gastric • Head & Neck • Liver • Ocular Melanoma • Pancreatic • Rectal • Soft Tissue Sarcomas • Thyroid • Acute Leukemia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Knee Replacement • Total Hip Replacement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discectomy • Fusion • Decompression Procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heart • Lung • Combination Heart/Lung • Liver • Simultaneous Pancreas Kidney (SPK) • Pancreas (PAK/PTA) • Bone Marrow/ Stem Cell

Overall, patients treated at Blue Distinction Centers have better outcomes, fewer complications, fewer readmissions and higher survival rates.

CUSTOMIZE YOUR PPO OR EPO WITH THESE OPTIONS

- **Decreased member cost sharing** – Waive deductibles or waive/reduce coinsurance for members who utilize a *Blue Distinction Center*
- **Increased member cost sharing** – Apply higher copays for members who utilize a non-*Blue Distinction Center*
- **No coverage** – Provide no out-of-network coverage for members who do not utilize a *Blue Distinction Center* (ASO only)
- **Travel benefits** – Provide coverage if members need to travel for care (ASO only)
- **Blue Distinction Benefits** can also be added to existing Comprehensive groups (ASO only)
- **Benefit Designs** offer one up to all six specialties to help manage specific risks. They offer *Blue Distinction* only, *Blue Distinction Plus* only, or *Blue Distinction/Blue Distinction Plus* benefits.
- Add to existing comprehensive groups (ASO only)

BDC FINDER CONNECTS MEMBERS TO QUALITY CARE

It's easy to find a *Blue Distinction Center*. Members can call the Member Service number on the back of their ID card, use the Provider Search tool on the member website.

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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.