

# National Centers of Excellence Program



## What is Blue Distinction Specialty Care?

Helping members find quality care at the right price is especially important when it comes to high-cost, complex care.

Blue Distinction, **our national centers of excellence program**, makes it easier for employers to maximize quality and savings through benefit designs that encourage employees to choose providers who are delivering higher-quality care at a lower cost.

Blue Distinction focuses on doctors, hospitals and other health care facilities that excel in delivering safe, effective treatment for specialty procedures. The program measures providers by specialty, which helps members pinpoint where to go for the care they need.

## A Better Approach to Specialty Care

Blue Distinction has a proven history of delivering high-quality care and better results across 11 high-impact specialties<sup>1</sup>:

- › Bariatric Surgery
- › Cancer Care\*
- › Cardiac Care
- › Cellular Immunotherapy–CAR-T\*
- › Fertility Care
- › Gene Therapy\*
- › Knee and Hip Replacement
- › Maternity Care
- › Spine Surgery
- › Substance Use Treatment and Recovery\*
- › Transplants

Blue Distinction develops criteria with the help of expert physicians and medical organizations. Specialty care categories are continuously evolving.

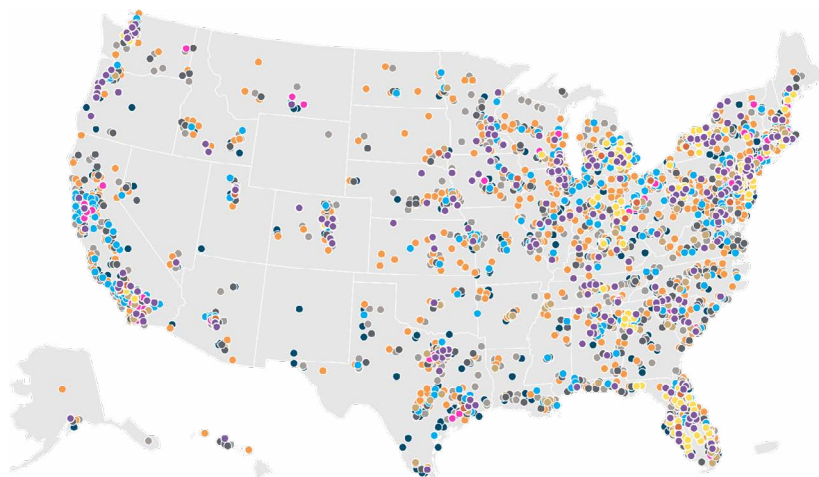
<sup>1</sup> BCBSA and registry data (where applicable), BDC/BDC+ eligible facilities vs. relevant comparison group. Results based on most recent designation cycle for each specialty.

\* BDC designation level only

## Blue Distinction Across the U.S.

Today, more than 6,000 Blue Distinction designations have been awarded to more than 2,600 providers and facilities across all the top 100 metropolitan statistical areas.<sup>2</sup>

- Bariatric Surgery
- Cancer Care
- Cardiac Care
- Cellular Immunotherapy—CAR-T
- Fertility Care
- Knee and Hip Replacement
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## Easy-to-Use Tools for Member Engagement

We make it a priority to give members the tools they need to take an active role in their own health care decision-making.

### To look for available Blue Distinction Centers:

- › Visit the Blue Distinction Center Finder<sup>SM</sup> at [bcbs.com/blue-distinction-center/facility](https://bcbs.com/blue-distinction-center/facility).
- › Use the Find Care tool at [bcbst.com](https://bcbst.com) and use the **Blue Quality Programs** drop-down filter to see available Blue Distinction providers within Tennessee.
- › Visit the National Directory and Hospital Finder<sup>SM</sup> at [provider.bcbs.com](https://provider.bcbs.com) to search for providers outside of Tennessee.
- › Call the number on the back of your Member ID card.

<sup>2</sup> BCBSA data, March 2023

Blue Distinction Centers (BDC) met overall quality measures for patient safety and outcomes, developed with input from the medical community. A Local Blue Plan may require additional criteria for providers located in its own service area; for details, contact your Local Blue Plan. Blue Distinction Centers+ (BDC+) also met cost measures that address consumers' need for affordable healthcare. Each provider's cost of care is evaluated using data from its Local Blue Plan. Providers in CA, ID, NY, PA, and WA may lie in two Local Blue Plans' areas, resulting in two evaluations for cost of care; and their own Local Blue Plans decide whether one or both cost of care evaluation(s) must meet BDC+ national criteria. National criteria for BDC and BDC+ are displayed on [www.bcbs.com](https://www.bcbs.com). Individual outcomes may vary. For details on a provider's in-network status or your own policy's coverage, contact your Local Blue Plan and ask your provider before making an appointment. Neither Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association nor any Blue Plans are responsible for noncovered charges or other losses or damages resulting from Blue Distinction or other provider finder information or care received from Blue Distinction or other providers.