

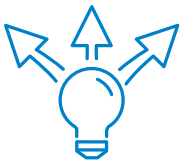


Specialty care you can count on.

Better care starts here.



Welcome to Blue Distinction® Specialty Care.



When you need specialty care, choosing the right hospital or other health care facility is as important as choosing your doctor.
But how do you decide?

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan can help put your mind at ease. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association has evaluated hospitals and facilities across the country for certain specialty care procedures to make it easier for you to find high-quality care at the location that's right for you.

The national Blue Distinction Specialty Care program recognizes hospitals and other health care facilities that provide high-quality care in 10 specialties. These health care providers have a proven history of delivering care with better results than other hospitals and facilities that have not earned designation.

The Blue Distinction Specialty Care program has helped patients face their specialty care procedures with confidence since 2006. It offers you the tools and knowledge you need to make smart, informed decisions about where to receive high-quality, cost-efficient specialty care.



How it works





Lower costs

Your health care plan gives you lower out-of-pocket costs for using Blue Distinction Centers or Blue Distinction Centers+ for certain types of specialty care. For details on your plan and the specialty care procedures included, check your benefit documents provided by your employer or found online in your member account at **bcbsm.com** or the Blue Cross mobile app.

Your plan may require you receive care at a Blue Distinction Center+ in order for certain specialty care procedures to be covered.

Exceptions

- In the event of an emergency, you may be eligible for an exception if you are unable to receive specialty care from a Blue Distinction Center or Blue Distinction Center+.
- If your health plan includes lower out-of-pocket costs for maternity care at a Blue Distinction Center or Blue Distinction Center+, you may be eligible for an exception if you're already pregnant or if you don't have a designated center near you.

For more information about exceptions, call the number on the back of your Blue Cross ID card.

Hospitals and other health care facilities earn designation as Blue Distinction Centers or Blue Distinction Centers+ for delivering superior care in:

- Bariatric surgery
- Cancer care
- Cardiac care
- Knee and hip replacement
- Maternity care
- Spine surgery
- Transplants
- Fertility care
- Cellular immunotherapy – CAR-T
- Gene therapy – ocular disorders

The Blue Distinction Specialty Care program evaluates health care providers against objective, nationally consistent quality and affordability criteria that were developed with input from medical experts.

Hospitals and other health care facilities may earn Blue Distinction Center or Blue Distinction Center+ designations for one specialty area or several. Blue Cross evaluates the existing centers and new applicants regularly before awarding designations based on quality of care, including:



Expertise in the specialty care treatment



Number of procedures performed



Track record of results for the procedure



Proven results

Overall, patients treated at Blue Distinction Centers and Blue Distinction Centers+ have better outcomes, such as fewer complications and lower hospital readmission rates. More than 3,600 Blue Distinction Center and Blue Distinction Center+ designations have been awarded to nearly 1,900 hospitals and other facilities nationwide.



Find a Blue Distinction Center near you

You'll find Blue Distinction Centers and Blue Distinction Centers+ in 48 states and the District of Columbia.

- Go to **bcbsm.com** and log in to your member account, if you have one. If you don't, click on *Register now*.
- After logging in, click on *Find a doctor* under the *Doctors and Hospitals* tab.
- Scroll down, and click on the *Find care* link.
- Type "hospital" in the search field, and press Enter.
- Select a procedure type from the Blue Distinction list on the left side of the screen.
- Choose the hospital or facility that's right for you.

Visit the Hospital Quality page of our website, at **bcbsm.com/hospital-quality**, to learn more about Blue Distinction Centers and to find other resources about the quality of hospital care.



**BlueCross
BlueShield**
of Michigan

BlueDistinction[®]
Specialty Care