Obesity is a battle for many Americans. Bariatric surgery is an effective treatment for those who struggle to find success in their weight-loss fights. About 216,000 bariatric surgeries are performed each year across the U.S., according to the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery.

To help members find hospitals and surgery facilities that provide high-quality bariatric surgery care, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network join Blue plans across the country in designating Blue Distinction Centers and Blue Distinction Centers+ for Bariatric Surgery.

Hospitals and other health care providers that earn these designations show expertise in patient safety and quality measures for bariatric surgery, including fewer complications and repeat hospital stays for:

- Laparoscopic surgeries for sleeve gastrectomy
- Gastric bypass
- Adjustable gastric band

Facilities must also be nationally accredited and have Bariatric Surgery Program Accreditation.

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association evaluates new applicants and existing centers regularly against current clinical guidelines and quality of care measures.

The national Blue Distinction Specialty Care program helps you find health care facilities that provide high-quality care in certain specialties. These hospitals and other health care providers have a proven history of delivering care in this specialty with better results than other facilities. Those designated as Blue Distinction Centers+ are also recognized for their cost-efficiency.

The Blue Distinction Specialty Care program has helped patients face their specialty care procedures with confidence since 2006.
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.