

SJHMC and SJMOH named Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement; SJHMC earns same designation for Spine Surgery

St. John Providence Health System offers comprehensive programs for spine surgery and knee and hip replacements, and on June 1, three hospitals were honored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network. St. John Hospital and Medical Center, St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital, and Providence Hospital were designated as Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement. SJHMC is also a Blue Distinction Center for Spine Surgery.

"These designations attest to the quality of our East Region programs, and the tireless dedication and collaborative efforts of our entire team," says Pat Blount, co-lead, SJHMC Spine Center of Excellence, and director, SJMOH Hip/Knee Replacement Center. "We will continue raising the bar!"

"Our Blue Distinction program recognizes hospitals that demonstrate higher levels of performance in providing better care for patients," said Thomas Simmer, MD, BCBSM senior vice president and chief medical officer. The Blue Distinction designation is awarded by the BCBS companies to medical facilities that have demonstrated expertise in delivering quality health care in the areas of bariatric surgery, cardiac care, complex and rare cancers, knee and hip replacement, spine surgery and transplants. Selection criteria are developed with input from a panel of expert physicians.

To be designated as a Blue Distinction Center for Spine Surgery and a Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement, the following types of criteria were evaluated.

- In an established acute care inpatient facility, including intensive care, emergency care, and a full range of patient support services with full accreditation by a CMS-deemed national accreditation organization;
- Experience and training of program surgeons, including case volume;
- Quality management programs, including surgical checklists as well as tracking and evaluation of clinical outcomes and process of care;
- Multi-disciplinary clinical pathways and teams to coordinate and streamline care, including transitions of care;
- Shared decision-making and preoperative patient education.

"Blue Distinction puts a high value on research and evidence-based health and medical information," said Allan Korn, M.D., Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association Chief Medical Officer. "Blue Distinction Centers show our commitment to working with doctors and hospitals in communities across the country to identify leading institutions that meet clinically validated quality standards and deliver better overall outcomes in patient care."