



St. Mary's Medical Center

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NEWS RELEASE

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St. Mary's Medical Center has been designated as a Blue Distinction Center

*St. Mary's received Blue Distinction® in not one, but two surgical areas –
Knee and Hip ReplacementSM and Spine SurgerySM*

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – Blue Shield of California has designated St. Mary's Medical Center as a Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement as well for a Blue Distinction Center for Spine Surgery. Blue Distinction Centers are part of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association's expansion of its Blue Distinction® designation.

St. Mary's Medical Center offers comprehensive Knee and Hip Replacement services, including state-of-the-art implants, customized devices, smaller incision surgery and advanced cell technologies. In the area of Spine Surgery, St. Mary's offers many innovative options for surgery including artificial disc replacement, motion preservation devices and the X-Stop® device which was invented by two of our spine surgeons.

"We are thrilled that St. Mary's has been designated as a BDC for both Hip and Knee Replacement Surgery as well as for Spine Surgery. We are one of two BDCs in San Francisco for both types of surgery and one of only a few in the Bay Area. Quality patient care is our top priority, and our physicians and staff take great care to provide excellent care to every patient. Our outcomes are a testimony to the work of this group of dedicated caregivers," says Anna Cheung, president and CEO of St. Mary's Medical Center. "We believe in greatness through research teaching and smart medicine."

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stmarysmedicalcenter.org

"Blue Distinction Centers set themselves apart by adhering to best practices in patient safety and surgical care and producing consistently strong outcomes with fewer complications," says Michael-Anne Browne, MD, medical director for quality at Blue Shield of California. "Blue Shield of California is pleased to recognize the superior care that this hospital and physicians deliver."

Blue Distinction Centers demonstrate their commitment to quality care, resulting in better overall outcomes for patients. St. Mary's Medical Center meets evidence-based clinical criteria, developed in collaboration with a panel of expert physicians and medical organizations including the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons for the Knee and Hip designation and the North American Spine Society and the American Association of Neurological Surgeons for Spine Surgery designation. Both designations are subject to periodic re-evaluation as criteria continue to evolve.

To be designated as a Blue Distinction Center the following types of criteria were evaluated. More information on selection criteria is available on www.bcbs.com:

- 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 is a designation awarded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield 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. The program is part of The Blues® efforts to collaborate with physicians and medical facilities to improve the overall quality and safety of specialty care.

The additional Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement designations will bring the national number of Blue Distinction designations to more than 1,600 – and this number is expected to increase in the coming years.

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 call Blue Shield of California Customer Service at 888-568-3560.

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ABOUT ST. MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER:

St. Mary's Medical Center (SMMC), a member of Catholic Healthcare West, has cared for the people of the San Francisco Bay Area since 1857. Today, it is one of the largest not-for-profit, community-based healthcare providers in Northern California. Home to the nation's first digital cardiac catheterization laboratory, pioneering spine and total joint surgery center and a full-range of inpatient and outpatient medical services, SMMC physicians are considered experts in their field. With more than 550 physicians, 1,100 employees and 400 patient beds, St. Mary's is committed to furthering the healing ministry of Jesus, and to providing high-quality, affordable healthcare to the community we serve. For more information, please call 415-668-1000 or visit www.stmarysmedicalcenter.org

About Blue Shield of California:

Blue Shield of California, an independent member of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, is a not-for-profit health plan dedicated to providing Californians with access to high quality care at a reasonable price. Founded in 1939, it now has 3.4 million members, 4,800 employees, one of the largest provider networks and more than 20 office locations, providing a wide range of commercial and government products throughout the state. The company has contributed \$100 million over the past three years to the Blue Shield of California Foundation to fund nonprofit organizations that improve access to quality health care in California. Contact your local agent or broker for more information about Blue Shield products and services, or visit the Blue Shield web site at www.blueshieldca.com.

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