

Blue Distinction Centers for Bariatric SurgerySM

informed decision-making
collaborative healthcare
improved overall quality
better affordability

Blue Distinction Centers for Bariatric Surgery SM

You are faced with a tough decision on how to find a qualified hospital offering bariatric surgery. You ask yourself - Are the bariatric services they offer comprehensive? What is the facility's success rate? Will I receive the care I need after my surgery?

These are typical questions many people have when faced with difficult choices.

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, in partnership with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, has developed the Blue Distinction Centers for Bariatric Surgery, a program that recognizes hospitals that have historically demonstrated quality clinical care and processes in bariatric surgery. These designations help you make more informed decisions when choosing a hospital for bariatric surgery.

The Blue Distinction Centers for Bariatric Surgery provide a full range of bariatric surgical services, including inpatient care, post-operative care, follow-up and patient education.

Designation is based on the facilities' responses to the clinical application that examines the hospitals' structure, processes and outcomes for bariatric services.

Hospitals achieving the designation have, at a minimum, met the following:

- Perform an average of more than 100 bariatric surgeries per year
- Facilities must have been actively performing bariatric surgeries for the most recent 18-24 month period
- One-month, post-surgery survival of at least 99 percent
- Multi-disciplinary team approach, including demonstrable commitment to pre- and post-procedure care
- An after-surgery program participation rate of at least 70 percent

Blue DistinctionSM in the Real World

As Don neared the age when many of his friends and colleagues were leaving the work force to enjoy time with their families, the question of Don taking early retirement always involved how to replace the great healthcare benefits that came with the job. As tempted as he may have been, Don knew where his responsibilities lie. You see, Don had worked all his life, and, for as long as he had supported a family, he made sure the job carried healthcare benefits.

Although relatively healthy as a young man, Don had always struggled with his weight. He tried every fad diet and even diet pills but none provided the long-term weight loss solution he needed. As his condition escalated into life-threatening obesity, Don's doctor sat him down and discussed his increased risk factors for diabetes, heart disease and stroke. His doctor's recommendation – bariatric surgery, as part of a complete weight reduction program.

Don checked with his company and learned about a new quality designation for bariatric surgery centers, called Blue Distinction. Don was able to access valuable information on facilities pre-screened for performance and overall quality standards in bariatric surgery.

Don was able to call Anthem for help with his questions about the Blue Distinction CentersSM as well as his benefits. With the help he received from Anthem and the information he collected from Anthem's online member tools, Don was confident in the decision to have his bariatric surgery at a designated Blue Distinction Center.

Don is looking forward to a positive health outcome – and why not? He is in control of his healthcare.

To access a Blue Distinction Bariatric Center for Specialty Care:

- Visit the Anthem website at [Anthem.com](https://www.anthem.com).
- Along the left-hand side of the screen, select "Member."
- In the middle of the screen, under "Select a State", select the second option "National Accounts" from the drop-down screen, then click Enter.
- At the Welcome National Member page, click on "Search the Provider Directory."
- On the right-hand side, you have the option to search as a guest. Choose your plan and follow the screen instructions to continue with your search.
- Enter your address or select a county.
- Select the provider type.

If there is a location near you, you will find a Blue Distinction logo on the right hand side of the provider's name. Or, call the customer service number on your ID card for assistance in locating a facility near you.

Note: Designation as Blue Distinction Centers means that these facilities' overall experience and aggregate data met objective criteria established in collaboration with expert clinicians' and leading medical societies' recommendations. Individual outcomes may vary. To find out which services are covered under your policy at these or any other facilities, please call your local Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plan; and please call your provider before making an appointment, to verify the most current information on their Network participation status. Neither the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association nor any of its Licensees are responsible for any damages, losses, or non-covered charges that may result from using these materials or receiving care from a provider listed in these materials.



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