To be covered by the Preferred Provider Organization (PPO), hip and knee replacements and certain inpatient spine surgeries MUST be performed at an Anthem Blue Cross Blue Distinction Center+.

Blue Distinction Centers+
Hospitals and facilities recognized for quality in hip, knee, and spine care

When you need hip, knee, or spine care, you want to choose a hospital or facility that has earned special recognition in those areas.

What the Blue Distinction Center+ award means

Only hospitals and facilities that consistently outperform their counterparts and meet high quality, safety, and efficiency standards can qualify for the Blue Distinction Center+ (BDC+) designation.

Finding a BDC+ hospital or facility

BDC+ hospitals and facilities deliver proven results, including reduced rates of patient complications and hospital readmissions compared to other providers.

To find a BDC+ hospital or facility for knee, hip, or spine procedures:

1. Log in to anthem.com/ca/find-care.
2. Choose Guests.
3. Complete the questions from the drop-down menus and select Continue.
4. Search for care “by City or County or ZIP code.” Under By Care Provider, pick Hospitals & Facilities.
5. Choose Recognitions.
6. Under Blue Distinction, select Show More.
7. Then, pick Knee & Hip Replacement or Spine Surgery. Be sure to check the box for Blue Distinction Centers+.
Help finding a surgeon

If you need help locating a surgeon who practices at a BDC+ hospital or facility, you may want to ask your primary care doctor or orthopedic specialist. There is often an Orthopedic Program Director at each BDC+ hospital and facility who can also direct you to surgeons in the program or other program resources.

Travel assistance

If there is no BDC+ hospital or facility within 50 miles of where you live, a travel benefit is available to cover travel expenses for you and a companion. The benefit includes a concierge service that can coordinate your services with providers. It is managed through Health Base, which Anthem Customer Service can connect you to for assistance with travel arrangements, appointment scheduling, and medical record collection and transfer.

With the BDC+ designation, you can make important healthcare decisions with peace of mind. If you have any questions, please call Anthem Customer Service at 800-234-4333.

1 Due to COVID-19 surges, most California hospitals are delaying non-urgent surgeries due to bed capacity issues. CVT will temporarily waive the BDC+ requirement, and CVT members will no longer be subject to these requirements, until further notice.

2 BDMCA and registry data. BDC/BDC+ eligible facilities vs. relevant comparison group. Results based on most recent designation cycle for each specialty. Savings based on BDC+ total episode cost.