

Spine surgery care you can count on.

Better care starts here.

Spinal surgeries are among the most common and expensive elective surgeries in the U.S. More than 465,000 spinal fusion operations were done in 2011, according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. This surgery is usually done in the lumbar area of the spine to treat low back pain.

To help members find hospitals and surgery facilities that provide high-quality spine surgery, 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 Spine Surgery.

Hospitals and other health care providers that earn this designation show expertise in patient safety and quality measures for spine surgery, including:

- Cervical and lumbar fusion
- Cervical laminectomy
- Lumbar laminectomy and discectomy

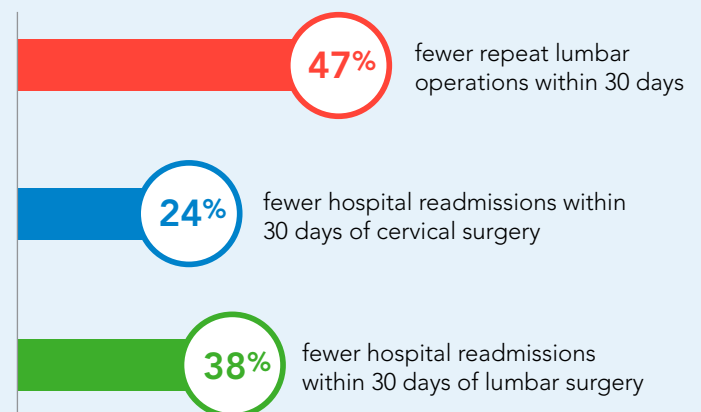
Facilities must also be nationally accredited.

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.

Blue Distinction Centers and Blue Distinction Centers+ for Spine Surgery show better results for patients, including:



Welcome to Blue Distinction® Specialty Care.



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.

