



For Immediate Release

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Roger Williams Medical Center earns national recognition for distinction in spine surgery and knee and hip replacement

(PROVIDENCE, RI – June 15, 2011) -- Roger Williams Medical Center has been named a Blue Distinction Center for both Spine Surgery and Knee and Hip Replacement from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) for demonstrating better overall quality of care and patient results in these specialties.

Blue Distinction[®] is a national designation awarded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies to medical facilities that have demonstrated expertise in delivering quality healthcare in the areas of bariatric surgery, cardiac care, complex and rare cancers, knee and hip replacement, spine surgery or transplants.

To earn this designation, Roger Williams Medical Center was evaluated based on an objective, evidence-based selection criteria established with input from expert physicians and medical organizations. The goal of Blue Distinction is to identify medical facilities that deliver better overall quality and medical outcomes for a specific area of specialty care, helping patients and doctors to make more informed hospital choices.

“This designation is a tribute to the dedicated team of physicians, nurses, technicians and therapists who helped develop Roger Williams’ comprehensive programs in spine surgery and knee and hip replacement,” said Kenneth H. Belcher, President and CEO of Roger Williams. “Our team’s dedication to quality and clinical expertise in this area of specialty care has resulted in better overall results for our patients.”

“Our Blue Distinction program recognizes hospitals that demonstrate higher levels of performance in providing better specialty care for patients,” said Dr. Gus Manocchia, vice president and chief medical officer for BCBSRI. “Improving quality of care is integral to transforming the healthcare system. Facilities like Roger Williams are helping Rhode Island achieve this by offering patients safe specialty care delivered by medical teams with expertise.”

An affiliate of CharterCARE Health Partners, Roger Williams Medical Center is a comprehensive health care institution offering a broad range of adult health services to residents of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts. To learn more, visit www.rwmc.org.

About Blue Distinction

Blue Distinction selection criteria cover a broad range of quality measures and are publicly available at www.bcbs.com/bluedistinction. By earning the designation, [HOSPITAL] has demonstrated:

- An established program, performing required annual volumes for certain procedures
- Appropriate experience of its care team
- Full facility accreditation by a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)-deemed national accreditation organization
- Adherence to evidence-based clinical care measures and guidelines
- A comprehensive quality management program

To learn more about the Blue Distinction designation, visit www.bcbs.com/bluedistinction.

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island is the state's leading health insurer and covers more than 600,000 members. The company is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. For more information, visit www.bcbsri.com and follow us on Twitter @BCBSRI.

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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 your local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan; and call your provider before making an appointment, to verify the most current information on its Network participation and Blue Distinction status. Neither 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 this resource or receiving care from a Blue Distinction provider.