

## Blue Choice PPO<sup>SM</sup> and Blue High Performance Network<sup>SM</sup> (BlueHPN)<sup>SM</sup> The Blue Distinction Program

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**Important note:** Throughout this provider manual there will be instances when there are references unique to Blue Choice PPO, Blue High Performance Network, Blue Edge, EPO and the Federal Employee Program. These specific requirements will be noted with the plan/network name. If a Plan/network name is not specifically listed or "Plan" is referenced, the information will apply to all PPO products.

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## Blue Choice PPO and BlueHPN - Provider Manual - The Blue Distinction® Program

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### Blue Distinction Program

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, in partnership with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, has developed Blue Distinction Centers. Each Center has been selected through a rigorous evaluation of clinical data that provides insight into the facility's structures, processes and outcomes of care. These nationally established criteria were developed with input from medical experts and organizations and support the consistent, objective assessment of specialty care capabilities.

The Blue Distinction Specialty Care Program is a national designation program recognizing healthcare providers that demonstrate expertise in delivering quality specialty care safely, effectively and cost-efficiently. The goal of the program is to help consumers find both quality and value for their specialty care needs, while providing a credible foundation for employers to design benefits tailored to meet their quality and cost objectives.

The Blue Distinction Specialty Care Program includes two levels of designation:

#### **Blue Distinction Centers:**

- Healthcare providers are recognized for their expertise in delivering specialty care.

#### **Blue Distinction Centers+:**

- Healthcare providers recognized for their expertise and cost-efficiency in delivering specialty care.
- Quality remains key: only those providers that first meet nationally established, objective quality measures for Blue Distinction Centers will be considered for designation as a Blue Distinction Center+.

Blue Distinction Specialty Care has eleven areas of specialty care:

- Bariatric surgery
- Cancer care
- Cardiac care
- Knee and hip replacement
- Maternity care
- Spine surgery
- Substance use treatment and recovery
- Transplants
- Fertility care
- Cellular immunotherapy
- Gene therapy

To learn more – go to the [Blue Distinction](#) page.

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