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**For Immediate Release:**

**BMH receives trio of Blue Distinction designations**

MUNCIE—BMH has been designated as a Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) Blue Distinction® Center in the areas of Cardiac Care, Knee and Hip Replacement and Spine Surgery. Blue Distinction® recognizes facilities that meet objective, evidence-based thresholds for clinical quality, in collaboration with expert physicians and medical organizations.

In its designation as a Blue Distinction® Center for Cardiac Care, BMH met the following established BCBSA criteria of an established cardiac care program:

- Performance of 125 or more cardiac surgical procedures (including coronary artery bypass graft surgery [CABG] and/or valve surgery) annually
- Appropriate experience of its cardiac team, including sub-specialty board certification for interventional cardiologists and cardiac surgeons
- Offering an established acute care inpatient facility, including intensive care, emergency and a full range of cardiac services
- Full facility accreditation by a CMS-deemed national accreditation organization
- Low overall complication and mortality rates and a comprehensive quality management program

“This is a great recognition for us which reinforces our reputation among elite healthcare providers,” said Claire Lee, senior administrative director, Quality and Safety. “The goal of the Blue Distinction® initiative is to help consumers identify consistently outstanding specialty care, and encourage the overall improvement of quality of care nationwide. This has been a highly-reputed program for more than 15 years.”

BMH is also among the first facilities to receive Blue Distinction® Center designation in the areas of Knee and Hip Replacement and Spine Surgery, both new designations for 2009.

Blue Distinction® Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement and Spine Surgery have demonstrated an objective commitment to quality care, resulting in better outcomes for patients undergoing knee and hip replacement and spinal surgery procedures, which have

demonstrated excellence in offering comprehensive inpatient knee and hip replacement services, including total knee and hip replacement procedures, and comprehensive inpatient spinal surgery services, discectomy, fusion and decompression procedures.

Designated facilities must meet individual selection criteria of:

**Knee and Hip Replacement:**

- Performing at least 100 total hip and total knee joint replacement surgeries (primary and revision) per year, with a minimum of 25 each of total hip and total knee replacements
- An experienced knee and hip replacement surgery team, including surgeons with board certification, subspecialty fellowship training, and case volumes meeting selection criteria for knee and hip replacement procedures
- Pre-operative patient education

**Spine Surgery:**

- Retain an experienced spine surgery team, including spine surgeons with board certification and case volumes meeting selection criteria
- Defined processes for patient selection and appropriateness of surgery
- Shared decision-making

Blue Distinction® Centers must also meet the following shared criteria:

- Processes supporting transitions of care
- Multi-disciplinary teams and clinical pathways to coordinate and streamline care
- Use of an internal registry or database to track patient outcomes over time
- Participation in the Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP) with greater than 90 percent performance on process measures
- Clinical outcomes meeting objective thresholds, including complication rates and length of stay for specific procedures.

Detailed selection criteria and fact sheets are available at:

[www.BCBS.com/bluedistinction](http://www.BCBS.com/bluedistinction)

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