

PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

PROVIDER INFORMATION



November 27, 2019

Blue Distinction Center and Blue Distinction Center + Designations Being Applied to Ambulatory Surgical Centers for Spine, Knee and Hip Services

Blue Distinction Centers (BDC) are part of a national designation program that recognizes facilities/sites demonstrating expertise in delivering quality specialty care safely and effectively. For those providers designated as Blue Distinction Centers + (BDC+), they meet all the stringent BDC requirements, plus they have demonstrated that they deliver designated specialty care at a lower cost relative to their peers. The BDC and BDC+ designation is available to facilities/sites nationwide that meet strict standards established by the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (BCBSA), with input from independent medical communities. Providers can access the list of BDC/BDC+ facilities/sites by state via the BCBSA website <https://www.bcbs.com/blue-distinction-center/facility>.

BDC and BDC+ for Spine, Knee, and Hip Services

There are currently some Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) Large Group and National Account Clients who choose to offer a benefit differential for use of a BDC/BDC+ facility for spine, knee, and hip related services. Because the BDC/BDC+ designation is specific to facility services, the better benefit applies only to facility billed services. Professionally billed spine, knee, and hip related services are not subject to the BDC/BDC+ differential and pay in accordance with the member's overall plan network requirements.

The refresh for Spine Surgery and Knee and Hip Replacement BDC Programs was launched in 2019 for a January 1, 2020 effective date. Facilities and Ambulatory Surgery Centers can still apply for these designations using our late application process. For more information, Minnesota providers may contact Blue.Distinction.Centers@bluecrossmn.com.

Changes Effective January 1, 2020

The BCBSA has opted to expand the BDC and BDC+ designations to Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) facilities, effective January 1, 2020. The impact to Minnesota providers differs depending on the member's Home Plan.

Local – Services Received by a Blue Cross of MN Member in Minnesota

Since the Minnesota Administrative Uniformity Committee (AUC) requires that ASCs in Minnesota bill their services professionally, there is no change to benefits or claims processing for services received from a Minnesota ASC. This applies even if the group has a BDC/BDC+ differential as the differential is applicable to facility billed services, **only**.

Host- Services Received by a non-Blue Cross of MN member in Minnesota

Blue Cross of MN Service Representatives do not quote benefits for out of state members. Blue Cross of MN will note the BDC/BDC+ status on the claim request sent to the Home Plan. The member's Home Plan will determine which benefits apply.

Availity Impact

The BDC/BDC+ designation will show on Availity. This designation is not an indicator of how claims will be adjudicated.