



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Dignity Health Bay Area Hospitals Earn Blue Distinction® Care Designation
for Quality in Knee and Hip Replacement Surgeries**

SAN FRANCISCO (March 15, 2016) – Blue Shield of California has selected all four Dignity Health hospitals in the Bay Area – Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz, Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City, and Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary’s Medical Center in San Francisco – as Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement, as part of the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program.

“Each of our hospitals offers excellence in knee and hip replacement surgery, and I am proud of our dedicated caregivers for achieving this coveted designation,” said Todd Strumwasser, MD, senior vice president of operations for the Dignity Health Bay Area Service Area. “Orthopedic patients throughout the Bay Area can rest assured that they’ll have an exemplary experience regardless of which Dignity Health hospital they choose.”

Knee and hip replacement procedures are among the fastest growing medical treatments in the U.S., according to studies published in the June 2014 Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery¹ and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

Blue Distinction Centers are nationally designated health care facilities shown to deliver improved patient safety and better health outcomes, based on objective measures that were developed with input from the medical community. Hospitals designated as Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement demonstrate expertise in total knee and total hip replacement surgeries, resulting in fewer patient complications and hospital readmissions. Designated hospitals must also maintain national accreditation.

Since 2006, the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program has helped patients find quality providers for their specialty care needs in the areas of bariatric surgery, cardiac care, complex and rare cancers, knee and hip replacements, maternity care, spine surgery and transplants, while encouraging health care professionals to improve the care they deliver. Research shows that facilities designated as Blue Distinction Centers demonstrate better quality and improved outcomes for patients compared with their peers.

Sequoia Hospital and Dominican Hospital also were recognized as Blue Distinction Centers for Cardiac Care.

For more information about the program and for a complete listing of the designated facilities, please visit www.bcbs.com/bluedistinction.

¹ J Bone Joint Surg Am, The Role of Overweight and Obesity in Relation to the More Rapid Growth of Total Knee Arthroplasty Volume Compared with Total Hip Arthroplasty Volume, 2014 Jun 04; 96 (11): 922 -928. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2106/JBJS.L.01731>

Dignity Health Bay Area Hospitals

Dignity Health includes four accredited, not-for-profit hospitals in the Bay Area – Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary’s Medical Center in San Francisco, Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City, and Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz. All four hospitals are Certified Stroke Centers, offer emergency services, and have received national recognition for superior safety and quality from Healthgrades, a leading provider of comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals.

www.dignityhealth.org/bayarea

Saint Francis Memorial Hospital is home to the Bothin Burn Center, the largest dedicated burn unit in Northern California. Saint Francis also features the Center for Sports Medicine, the Saint Francis Orthopedic Institute, and a CARF-accredited Acute Rehabilitation Unit.

www.dignityhealth.org/saintfrancis

St. Mary’s Medical Center opened the nation’s first digital cardiac catheterization laboratory and continues to pioneer in multidisciplinary spine care. St. Mary’s also houses a Total Joint Center, a Comprehensive Cancer Center and is recognized for outstanding treatment of stroke.

www.dignityhealth.org/stmarys

Sequoia Hospital, located in Redwood City, is a nationally known pioneer in advanced cardiac care, affiliated with the Cleveland Clinic Heart and Vascular Institute. Sequoia’s Birth Center is consistently ranked as a favorite among Peninsula families, and the hospital is known for its Center for Total Joint Replacement. www.dignityhealth.org/sequoia

Dominican Hospital is a chest pain center and Santa Cruz County’s STEMI receiving center, and offers the only comprehensive Cancer Center in the county. Dominican’s services include a Total Joint Replacement program, maternity and NICU services, and the hospital is a leading provider of neurological services. www.dignityhealth.org/dominican

About Blue Shield of California

Blue Shield of California, an independent member of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, is a nonprofit health plan with 4 million members, 6,800 employees and more than \$13 billion in annual revenue. Founded in 1939 and headquartered in San Francisco, Blue Shield of California and its affiliates

provide health, dental, vision, Medicaid and Medicare health care service plans in California. The company's mission is to ensure all Californians have access to high-quality care at an affordable price. Blue Shield has contributed more than \$325 million over the past ten years to the Blue Shield of California Foundation. Contact your local agent or broker about Blue Shield of California products and services, or visit www.blueshieldca.com.

About Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association is a national federation of 36 independent, community-based and locally operated Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies that collectively provide healthcare coverage for nearly 105 million members – one in three Americans. For more information on the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and its member companies, please visit www.BCBS.com. We encourage you to connect with us on [Facebook](#), check out our videos on [YouTube](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and check out [The BCBS Blog](#) for up-to-date information about BCBSA.

About Blue Distinction Centers

Blue Distinction Centers (BDC) met overall quality measures for patient safety and outcomes, developed with input from the medical community. A Local Blue Plan may require additional criteria for facilities located in its own service area; for details, contact your Local Blue Plan. Blue Distinction Centers+ (BDC+) also met cost measures that address consumers' need for affordable health care. Each facility's cost of care is evaluated using data from its Local Blue Plan. Facilities in CA, ID, NY, PA, and WA may lie in two Local Blue Plans' areas, resulting in two evaluations for cost of care; and their own Local Blue Plans decide whether one or both cost of care evaluation(s) must meet BDC+ national criteria. National criteria for BDC and BDC+ are displayed on bcbs.com. Individual outcomes may vary. For details on a provider's in-network status or your own policy's coverage, contact your Local Blue Plan and ask your provider before making an appointment. Neither Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association nor any Blue Plans are responsible for non-covered charges or other losses or damages resulting from Blue Distinction or other provider finder information or care received from Blue Distinction or other providers.

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