



## **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico**

### **For Details, Contact:**

Becky Kenny

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico

505-816-2012 or 505-999-8806

## **Heart Hospital of New Mexico Named Blue Distinction Center<sup>SM</sup> for Cardiac Care**

**Albuquerque, New Mexico** — Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Mexico (BCBSNM) has named Heart Hospital of New Mexico as a Blue Distinction Center<sup>SM</sup> for Cardiac Care.

Blue Distinction is the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans' nationwide program that is creating an unprecedented level of transparency with two goals: engaging consumers to enable more informed health care decisions and collaborating with physicians and hospitals to improve quality outcomes and affordability. A key component of Blue Distinction is a specialty center program that offers the best practices and standards of care in bariatric surgery, cardiac care, and transplant services.

“The Heart Hospital of New Mexico, since its inception, has been committed to providing the best possible care to the citizens of the Southwest. HHNM is truly a highly trained and experienced team that includes every level of care for heart patients. This award validates the effort of our entire team. It is gratifying to see that effort recognized and we look forward to continuing to enhance our capabilities of service to the people of the Southwest,” stated John W. Batty, MD, FACC, Chairman of the Board, Heart Hospital of New Mexico.

“The Blue Distinction program emphasizes our commitment of providing our members access to quality, affordable health care and our dedication to provide them the information they need to make better health care decisions,” stated Dr. Lawrence Wilson, Chief Medical Officer for BCBSNM. “Blue Distinction highlights hospitals with strong track records of success in cardiac care. We are fortunate to have access to this level of care in our community at the Heart Hospital of New Mexico.”

The process used to select Blue Distinction Centers is based on clinical data supplied by hospitals. Each facility's structure, processes, and care outcomes are rigorously evaluated. The criteria for designation include nationally endorsed quality measures, developed in collaboration with medical experts and professional organizations.

“Blue Distinction puts a high value on research and evidenced-based health and medical information,” said Allan Korn, MD, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association Chief Medical Officer. “These centers show our commitment to working with doctors and hospitals in communities across the country to identify leading institutions that meet clinically validated quality standards and deliver better outcomes in patient care.”

The criteria for becoming a Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care include:

- Full-service, accredited inpatient hospital facility;
- Program must be performing a required volume of percutaneous coronary interventions and coronary artery bypass graft surgeries and provide a full range of services including inpatient cardiac care and cardiac rehabilitation;
- Subspecialty board certification of cardiac team;
- Ongoing quality management and improvement programs; and
- Cardiac care processes and outcomes for acute myocardial infarction, heart failure, percutaneous coronary interventions, and coronary artery bypass graft surgery, including evaluation of complication and mortality rates.

For more information about the Heart Hospital of New Mexico, call 505-724-2037 or visit [www.hearthospitalnm.com](http://www.hearthospitalnm.com). For more information about Blue Distinction Centers, call 1-800-567-8540.

The Heart Hospital of New Mexico was established in 1999, through a joint effort between the state’s leading cardiology and cardiovascular surgery groups, as an entire medical facility dedicated to fighting heart disease. Located on an eight-acre campus near downtown Albuquerque, it is the state’s first free-standing heart facility, dedicated to providing the most advanced, patient-centered, family-centered care for the region. Services include comprehensive cardiology and cardiovascular surgery, a full range of community and patient education, and cardiac rehabilitation.

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