



**CULLMAN  
REGIONAL  
MEDICAL  
CENTER**

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## **Press Release**

### **CULLMAN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS A BLUE DISTINCTION CENTER FOR KNEE AND HIP REPLACEMENT**

**Cullman, AL** – Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama has designated Cullman Regional Medical Center as a Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement. Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement are part of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association’s expansion of its Blue Distinction designation.

“Blue Distinction, in coordination with our JointsFirst program, is creating more streamlined care for our joint replacement patients,” Dr. Dave Dueland, Chief of Orthopedics at CRMC commented. “With CRMC performing 300-400 total joints annually, we have to maintain the highest standard of care and combine it with evidence-based practice.”

“Blue Distinction puts a high value on research and evidence-based health and medical information,” Allan Korn, MD, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association Chief Medical Officer said. “Blue Distinction 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 overall outcomes in patient care.”

The selection criteria used to evaluate facilities were developed with input from a panel of expert physicians. To be designated as a Blue Distinction Center for Knee & Hip Replacement, BCBS evaluated the following criteria:

- The established acute care inpatient facility, including intensive care, emergency care and a full range of patient support services with full accreditation by a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services-deemed national accreditation organization
- The experience and training of program surgeons, including case volume
- The quality management programs, including surgical checklists as well as tracking and evaluation of clinical outcomes and process of care
- The multi-disciplinary clinical pathways and teams to coordinate and streamline care, including transitions of care
- The decision making and preoperative patient education

“We are honored to receive the designation awarded by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies to medical facilities that have demonstrated expertise in delivering quality healthcare in the area of knee and hip replacement,” Jim Weidner, President/CEO of Cullman Regional Medical Center commented. “The program is part of Blue Cross Blue Shields efforts to collaborate with physicians and medical facilities to improve the overall quality and safety of specialty care.”

For more information on the Blue Distinction designation at Cullman Regional Medical Center, contact Teri Mobley at 256-737-2802. For additional information on services offered at Cullman Regional Medical Center, contact CRMC at 256-737-2600.

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Designation as Blue Distinction Centers® means these facilities’ overall experience and aggregate data met objective criteria established in collaboration with expert clinicians’ and leading professional organizations’ recommendations. Individual outcomes may vary. To find out which services are covered under your policy at any facilities, please call your local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan.

*Cullman Regional Medical Center is a fully accredited medical center which is dedicated to promoting wellness by providing excellent healthcare services in the most efficient manner and exceeding the expectations of those we serve.*

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