



Two OSF HealthCare Hospitals Recognized for Exceptional Maternity Care

For immediate release

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(January 23, 2017 | Peoria, IL) – Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) has recognized OSF HealthCare St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington and OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa with Blue Distinction® Center+ for Maternity Care designations as part of the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program. Blue Distinction Centers are nationally designated hospitals that show expertise in delivering improved patient safety and better health outcomes.

Nearly four million babies are born in the U.S. annually, making childbirth the most common cause of hospitalization, and cesarean sections the most common operating room procedures. Reducing early elective delivery is an area of focus for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). According to Health Affairs, elective inductions result in more cesarean deliveries and a longer maternal hospitalization.

The Blue Distinction Centers+ for Maternity Care program evaluates hospitals on quality measures for vaginal and cesarean delivery. To receive a Blue Distinction Centers+ for Maternity Care designation, a hospital must also demonstrate cost-efficiency. Only those hospitals that first meet Blue Distinction's nationally-established, objective quality measures will be considered for designation as a Blue Distinction Center+.

OSF HealthCare is proud to be recognized by BCBSIL for meeting the rigorous Blue Distinction Center+ quality and cost selection criteria for maternity care set by the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program.

"The designation provides assurance to our community that OSF HealthCare St. Joseph Medical Center provides a high level of care for both mom and baby," said Lynn Fulton, President, OSF HealthCare St. Joseph Medical Center. "Our experienced team of physicians and nurses have demonstrated the ability to provide high quality care, treatment expertise and improved patient results. We are fortunate to have this level of program in our community."

"At OSF HealthCare Saint Elizabeth Medical Center, our priority is to provide quality and compassionate care to the mothers and babies we have the privilege of serving," said Ken Beutke, President, OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center. "The Blue Distinction program gives expectant parents reliable quality and safety information, and signifies that OSF Saint Elizabeth consistently delivers expert care."

Hospitals recognized with the Blue Distinction Centers+ for Maternity Care designation are assessed using a combination of quality information supplied by hospitals and cost measures derived from BCBS companies' medical claims.

Since 2006, the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program has helped patients find quality specialty care in the areas of bariatric surgery, cancer care, cardiac care, maternity care, knee and hip replacements, spine surgery, and transplants, while encouraging health care professionals to improve the care they deliver. Research shows that, compared to other hospitals, those designated as Blue Distinction Centers demonstrate better quality and improved outcomes for patients. On average, Blue Distinction Centers+ are also 20 percent more cost-efficient than non-Blue Distinction Center+ designated hospitals.