



## Three OSF HealthCare Hospitals Recognized for High Quality Maternity Care

### For immediate release

**Contact:** Libby Allison | OSF HealthCare Media Relations Coordinator | (309) 308-5015

**(January 23, 2017 | Peoria, IL)** – Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois (BCBSIL) has recognized OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, OSF HealthCare Saint James-John W. Albrecht Medical Center in Pontiac and OSF HealthCare St. Mary Medical Center in Galesburg 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.

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

“We’re pleased to again receive this designation from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, the largest insurer in the state. It demonstrates our staff’s commitment to providing safe, quality obstetrical care for our communities,” remarked Brad Solberg, President, OSF HealthCare Saint James Medical Center.”

“Our team partners with the mother and family to ensure the best possible outcome,” said Cindy Martin, Director of Women’s Services at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center. “Compassionate care, blended with our advanced medical resources, allows us the unique ability to provide an individualized experience before, during, and after the birth of each baby, and allows us to serve with the greatest care and love.”

“Our dedicated Mission Partners are passionate and committed to care for our community to provide quality care to our patients and their families,” said OSF HealthCare St. Mary Medical Center President & Western Region CEO Roxanna Crosser. “Congratulations to the physicians and the Mission Partners of our Family Birthing Center that help make our maternity care exceptional!”

Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) companies across the nation have recognized more than 1,000 hospitals as Blue Distinction Centers for Maternity Care. Hospitals recognized with this 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.