

GRITMAN MEDICAL CENTER Recognized for Higher Quality Knee and Hip Replacements

OCTOBER 1, 2025, LEWISTON, IDAHO – GRITMAN MEDICAL CENTER is proud to be recognized by BLUE CROSS OF IDAHO with a Blue Distinction® Center (BDC) for Knee and Hip Replacement designation.

This program identifies hospitals and ambulatory care centers (ASCs) that demonstrate expertise in patient safety and deliver better health outcomes. Quality assessments are based on objective measures developed from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association's (BCBSA) partnership with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS).

This designation is a testament to the rigorous standards met by GRITMAN MEDICAL CENTER. Designated knee and hip replacement facilities deliver high-quality care, with an average of 21% fewer readmissions and 21% fewer complications within 90 days after knee and hip replacement surgery.

Patients treated at designated facilities benefit from the expertise and advanced practices that lead to improved recovery times and reduced complications making a significant difference in their overall health journey.

"This distinction reflects Gritman's commitment to delivering high-quality orthopedic care", said Todd York, VP of Provider Partnerships. Idahoans can feel confident knowing they have access to exceptional treatment close to home. We value our partnership with Gritman Medical Center and support their ongoing dedication to providing the best care at the best value for our communities."

Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement help consumers find quality care, while also encouraging health care professionals to improve the overall delivery of care nationwide.

Among other criteria, to receive a designation, facilities **must**:

- Have full accreditation from at least one national accrediting organization as either a hospital or ambulatory surgery center
- Have low complication, mortality and unplanned readmission rates within 90 days after elective primary total knee and hip replacements
- Have enhanced recovery after surgery processes and procedures in place for quality perioperative care
- Participate in BLUE CROSS OF IDAHO'S BlueCard Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) Network

By meeting these stringent criteria, GRITMAN MEDICAL CENTER not only highlights its commitment to high quality health care but also commits to remaining at the forefront of advancements in knee and hip replacements.

To further improve patient outcomes and inform treatment strategies, BCBSA utilized the AAOS and American Joint Replacement Registry (AJRR) for more evidence-based performance measures and patient reported outcome measures.

Since 2005, the [Blue Distinction Specialty Care program](#) has helped patients find quality specialty care at lower costs in the areas of bariatric surgery, cancer care, cardiac care, cellular immunotherapy, fertility care, knee and hip replacement, maternity care, spine surgery, substance use treatment and recovery.

For more information about the program and for a complete listing of the designated providers, visit our [website](#).

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About Blue Cross of Idaho

Blue Cross of Idaho is part of an Idaho-based, not-for-profit mutual insurance holding company group dedicated to improving the health of the communities we serve. We are the state's oldest and largest health insurer, and the only Idaho-based insurer serving the entire state. Blue Cross of Idaho offers a broad portfolio of health plans for employers of all sizes, as well as individual and Medicare plans. Our plans offer innovative solutions to meet the unique needs of Idahoans and Idaho-based employers.

About the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association is a national federation of independent, community-based and locally operated Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies that collectively provide health care coverage for one in three Americans. BCBSA provides health care insights through [The Health of America Report](#) series and the national BCBS Health IndexSM. For more information on BCBSA and its member companies, please visit bcbs.com.

About Blue Distinction Centers

Blue Distinction Centers (BDC) met overall quality measures, developed with input from the medical community. A Local Blue Plan may require additional criteria for providers 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 healthcare. Each provider's cost of care is evaluated using data from its Local Blue Plan. Providers 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 www.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 noncovered 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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