



Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement Surgery

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TMH Designated as a Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement Surgery

(Warren- February 1, 2010) - Blue Cross and Blue Shield has designated Trumbull Memorial Hospital (TMH) as a Blue Distinction Center for Knee and Hip Replacement as part of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association's expansion of its Blue Distinction® designation.

“This award recognizes the excellent care and outcomes given at TMH by physicians, nurses and therapists,” said Thomas Jones, MD, Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at TMH. “No other hospital in Warren has achieved this recognition and it is a confirmation that patients in our community get superior care close to home,” he said.

TMH offers gender-specific knees and custom-made instrumentation for total knee replacements. The custom-made devices allow for more precise placement of the total knee, according to Jones. He also noted significant improvements in the weight-bearing technology. “With the improvements in total joints there is no such thing as having the procedure re-done after ten years – as was the case in the past,” Jones said. “The new devices could theoretically last forever,” he added. This also expands the possibility of age limitations with procedures being successfully done on very young patients as well as those more than 80 years old.

“Anyone with arthritis of the hips or knees who are not satisfied with their current activity or pain level should call us,” Jones said. Individuals can call 330-841-9938 for a list of physicians or to schedule an appointment. In February, TMH will also have a full time Orthopedic Nurse Navigator as part of the orthopedic team. The Nurse Navigator's role is comprehensive coordination of the patient's care beginning with pre-surgery education and throughout the patient's treatment. The Nurse Navigator serves as a support system for the patient and his/her family to educate and assist for improved experience and recovery. “We are taking every extra step to make our patient's experience positive and ensure that all needs are met throughout the process,” Jones said.

“Blue Distinction puts a high value on research and evidence-based health and medical information,” said Allan Korn, MD, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association Chief Medical Officer. “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 and Hip Replacement, the following types of criteria were evaluated. More information on selection criteria is available on www.bcbs.com:

- Established acute care inpatient facility, including intensive care, emergency care and a full range of patient support services with full accreditation by a CMS-deemed national accreditation organization
- Experience and training of program surgeons, including case volume
- Quality management programs, including surgical checklists as well as tracking and evaluation of clinical outcomes and process of care
- Multi-disciplinary clinical pathways and teams to coordinate and streamline care, including transitions of care
- Shared decision making and preoperative patient education

Trumbull Memorial Hospital is also a Blue Distinction Center for cardiac surgery. The Blue Distinction designation is awarded by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies to medical facilities that have demonstrated expertise in delivering quality healthcare in the areas of bariatric surgery, cardiac care, complex and rare cancers, knee and hip replacement, spine surgery and transplants. The program is part of The Blues® efforts to collaborate with physicians and medical facilities to improve the overall quality and safety of specialty care.

For more information, please contact Christine Ruggieri at 330-240-4838.

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