

# NEWS RELEASE



## **DAMERON HOSPITAL RECOGNIZED FOR KNEE AND HIP REPLACEMENTS**

STOCKTON – Dameron Hospital has been recognized by Blue Shield of California as a Blue Distinction® Center for Knee and Hip Replacement as part of the Blue Distinction® Centers for Specialty Care program. Blue Distinction Centers are nationally designated healthcare facilities shown to deliver quality specialty care, based on objective measures that were developed with input from the medical community, for patient safety and better health outcomes.

Hospitals designated as Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement demonstrate expertise in total knee and total hip replacement surgeries, resulting in fewer patient complications and hospital readmissions. Designated hospitals must also maintain national accreditation.

According to Dameron Hospital President and Chief Executive Officer Lorraine Auerbach, this designation reflects the excellent quality of the hospital's total joint replacement program. Dameron Hospital's knee replacement program has also received Healthgrades® Five Star Ratings for Knee Replacements in 2015 and 2017.

"Dameron Hospital is proud to be recognized by Blue Shield of California for meeting the rigorous selection criteria for knee and hip replacements set by the Blue Distinction Centers for Specialty Care program," said Auerbach. "We actively partner with our physicians to develop specialty care programs that deliver superior outcomes for our patients. As part of our long-standing commitment to the community, we want to deliver world-class health care to residents right here where they live and work."

Knee and hip replacement procedures are among the fastest growing medical treatments in the U.S., according to studies published in the June 2014 Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery<sup>1</sup> and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons<sup>2</sup>.

"Dameron Hospital has consistently achieved excellent outcomes in orthopedics, particularly in the area of knee and hip replacement procedures," said Dameron Hospital Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer Brad Reinke, MD. "In health care, performing a high volume of specific surgical procedures strengthens clinical expertise in that area. Research shows that facilities designated as Blue Distinction Centers demonstrate better quality and improved outcomes for patients compared with their peers."

Since 2006, the Blue Distinction Centers for Specialty Care program has helped patients find quality providers for their specialty care needs in the areas of bariatric surgery, cardiac care, complex and rare cancers, knee and hip replacements, spine surgery, and transplants while

encouraging healthcare professionals to improve the care they deliver. For more information about the program and for a complete listing of the designated facilities, please visit [www.bcbs.com/bluedistinction](http://www.bcbs.com/bluedistinction).

<sup>1</sup> J Bone Joint Surg Am, The Role of Overweight and Obesity in Relation to the More Rapid Growth of Total Knee Arthroplasty Volume Compared with Total Hip Arthroplasty Volume, 2014 Jun 04; 96 (11): 922 -928. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2106/JBJS.L.01731>

<sup>2</sup> American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Annual Incidents of Common Musculoskeletal Procedures and Treatment, 2014 March; <http://www.aaos.org/research/stats/CommonProceduresTreatments-March2014.pdf>

### **About Blue Distinction Centers**

*Blue Distinction Centers (BDC) met overall quality measures for patient safety and outcomes, developed with input from the medical community. Blue Distinction Centers+ (BDC+) also met cost measures that address consumers' need for affordable healthcare. Individual outcomes may vary. National criteria is displayed on [www.bcbs.com](http://www.bcbs.com). A Local Blue Plan may require additional criteria for facilities located in its own service area. For details on Local Blue Plan Criteria, a provider's in-network status, or your own policy's coverage, contact your Local Blue Plan. Each facility's cost of care is evaluated using data from its Local Blue Plan. Facilities 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. Neither Blue Cross Blue Shield Association nor any Blue Plans are responsible for damages or non-covered charges resulting from Blue Distinction or other provider finder information or care received from Blue Distinction or other providers.*

### **About Dameron Hospital**

*Dameron Hospital is a fully accredited, non-profit, 200+ bed community hospital providing acute and tertiary level care to San Joaquin County residents and is a designated heart attack receiving center for San Joaquin County. Dameron has been recognized nationally and statewide for the quality of many of its services and programs, including designations from HealthGrades® for Five-Star Rated Knee Replacement and Five-Star Rated Back Surgery, and selection as a Blue Shield of California Blue Distinction Center for Bariatric Surgery and for Knee and Hip Replacement. Dameron has also been recognized as a Top Performer for its Quality Metrics by the Joint Commission. Dameron's services include Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery, Orthopedics, Bariatric Surgery, as well as general acute care, Emergency and Intensive Care Services. Dameron also provides primary care in its onsite Ambulatory Care Center.*