SISC III
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Hip, Knee and Spine Surgeries *Blue Distinction+ Requirement*

Learn more about finding a Blue Distinction+ hospital before scheduling a procedure

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Are you considering a hip, knee or spine surgery?

If you're considering surgery, the SISC Expert Medical Opinion program can provide a second opinion with a top specialist in the field of joint replacement and spine surgery. They'll handle the collection of medical records and provide you an expert consultation on the phone or online.

Call **1-855-201-9925** to start a second opinion, or visit **advance-medical.net/sisc** to learn more.

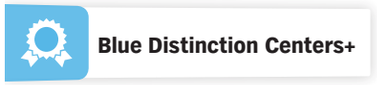
In order to be covered by the Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan, hip and knee replacements and certain inpatient spine surgeries must be performed at an Anthem Blue Cross Blue Distinction+ Center. Read more to find out key details before getting surgery.

Access the highest quality of care

For particular surgeries, some hospitals deliver better outcomes than others. Hospitals meeting the requirements for the Blue Distinction+ (BD+) designation outperform their peers in the areas that impact member health care the most — quality, safety and efficiency. BD+ centers meet affordability criteria and deliver better results — including fewer complications and readmissions — than other hospitals.

For a specific list of hip, knee and spine procedures that are part of the program, please call the customer service number on the back of your ID card.

Finding a Blue Distinction+ hospital

- Go to **anthem.com/ca/sisc**
- Select 

- Scroll down to find the links to the hip, knee or spine hospitals.

If you need help finding a surgeon that practices at a Blue Distinction+ hospital, please contact Customer Service for assistance.

Finding a surgeon who operates at a Blue Distinction+ hospital

You may want to ask your primary care doctor or orthopedic specialist to assist you in finding a surgeon who operates at a BD+ designated hospital. There is also often an Orthopedic Program Director at each BD+ hospital that can assist you with finding surgeons that are part of their program, as well as provide you detailed information about what their program offers.

Travel Assistance

If there is no BD+ center within 50 miles from where you live, a travel benefit is available to you. It pays for travel for the patient and a companion. It also includes a concierge service called HealthBase that serves as a link between patients and doctors. Anthem Customer Service can connect you with a HealthBase representative that will help with travel arrangements, accommodations and setting up appointments including medical record collection and transfer.

Exceptions

Although rare, there may be times when you may be able to go to a non-Blue Distinction+ center. For example:

- Emergencies
- Additional complications such as cancer
- Patient is under the age of 18
- SISC is secondary to other primary benefits
- Patient lives outside of California