

Blue Distinction Centers for Transplants® Program Selection Criteria for 2008/2009 Designations

HEART TRANSPLANT

To qualify as a Blue Distinction Center for Transplants® (BDCT), each facility must satisfy BDCT's quality based adult and/or pediatric Heart Transplant and Solid Organ Transplant Program selection criterion. BDCT's detailed Request for Information (RFI) survey examines the facility's clinical structure, processes, and outcomes for transplant services, as well as certain responses to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) Standardized RFI Transplant Administrative Survey, UNOS Program Information RFI, and Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) Experience Data Part F. A mid-level description of the BDCT selection criteria for BDCT's Heart Transplant category appears below; for more detail, contact the BDCT Administrator at bdcadmins@bcbsa.com. Additional quality factors may impact a local BCBS company's decision to invite a facility to participate in the BDCT RFI. Successful facilities then undergo an on-site inspection by BDCT's clinical review team. The BDCT designation process is complete after the facility enters a BDCT Participation Agreement, through which it provides global pricing for transplants (includes hospital, professional, and other provider services) and agrees to follow certain administrative requirements. Once awarded, BDCT designation is contingent on each facility's ongoing compliance with BDCT selection criteria. All BDCT facilities resubmit clinical data every eighteen months and undergo and initial on-site inspection.

CATEGORY	RFI	CRITERIA DESCRIPTION	Threshold	2008 CORE POINTS
STRUCTURE				
Certification	BDCT	Awarded Joint Commission Ventricular Assist Device Certification (adults only)	Yes	1
Blue Distinction Centers for Cardiac Care	BDCT	Designated as a BDC for Cardiac Care (adults only)	Yes	2
Cardiac Surgery	UNOS	Twenty-four hour, 7 day availability	Yes	Required
Ventricular Assist Device (VAD)/Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) Program	BDCT	Has a VAD/ECMO program or facility has a process/plan in place to allow patients access to these services	Yes	Required
		Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - devices implanted - patients sent home with device - pre-transplant LOS on VAD - outcome of care 	Yes	Required
Cardiac Rehab	BDCT	Has or makes appropriate referral to cardiac rehab program	Yes	Required
		Has American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR) Cardiac Rehabilitation Program Certification (adults only)	Yes	1
Heart Failure Program	UNOS	Has an organized heart failure program	Yes	2
Child Life	UNOS	Has child life programs established and available for pediatric in- and outpatients. (pediatric only)	Yes	2
Team	BDCT	Reports number of adult transplants performed/managed by pediatric surgeons/physicians.	Yes	Required
		Reports one-month, one-year, and three-year survival of adult patients who were transplanted/managed by pediatric surgeons/physicians.	Yes	Required

CATEGORY	RFI	CRITERIA DESCRIPTION	Threshold	2008 CORE POINTS
OUTCOMES				
Volume	UNOSS RTR	<i>Adult (18 years old or older)</i> Actively performing adult heart transplants	≥ 20 over 2 yrs and ≥ 8 per yr	Required
	UNOSS RTR	<i>Pediatric (17 years old or younger, including patients 18 and above with congenital diagnosis)</i> Actively performing pediatric heart transplants	≥ 6 over 2 yrs and ≥ 2 per yr	Required
	BDCI	<i>Pediatric (17 years old or younger)</i> Actively performing congenital open heart cases	≥100	Required
Survival	SRTR	One-month, one-year, and three-year patient and graft survival must not be statistically lower than the expected outcome as reported by SRTR for the most recent timeframe available.	Not significantly different Statistically higher than expected	Required 5
Re-transplants	UNOS SRTR	Overall 1-month and 1-year program re-transplant rate of ≤ 5% for adults and pediatrics as reported for the most recent timeframe available.	Adults 1mo ≤ 5%	2
			Pediatric 1mo ≤ 5%	3
Death rate per year on waitlist	SRTR	Death rate per year on waitlist is not statistically higher than the expected as reported by SRTR for the most recent timeframe available	Not statistically higher	Required

Note: Designation as Blue Distinction Centers means these facilities' overall experience and aggregate data met objective criteria established in collaboration with expert clinicians' and leading professional organizations' recommendations. Individual outcomes may vary. To find out which services are covered under your policy at any facility, please call your local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan.