

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

LIVER TRANSPLANT

To qualify as a Blue Distinction Center for Transplants® (BDCT), each facility must satisfy BDCT's quality based adult and/or pediatric Liver 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 Liver Transplant category appears below; for more detail, contact the BDCT Administrator at bdadmins@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, subject to thorough investigation on a case-by-case basis for any changes. All BDCT facilities resubmit clinical data periodically and undergo an initial on-site inspection.

CATEGORY	RFI	CRITERIA DESCRIPTION	Threshold	2008 CORE POINTS
STRUCTURE				
Child Life	UNOS	Has child life programs established and available for pediatric in- and outpatients. (pediatric only)	Yes	2
Living Donor Programs	BDCT	Programs applying for adult living donor transplant must meet deceased donor criteria and current UNOS and CMS requirements.	Yes	Required
PROCESS				
Living Donor Programs	UNOS	Have developed Policies/procedures/ protocols to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all phases of the living donation process, - the duties and responsibilities of the Independent Donor Advocate, - the medical evaluation of the potential living donor, and - the Informed Consent for the Donor Evaluation Process as defined by CMS and UNOS bylaws.	Yes	Required
OUTCOMES				
Volume	UNOS SRTR	<i>Adult (18 years old or older)</i> Actively performing adult deceased donor liver transplants	≥ 60 over 2 yrs and ≥ 25 per yr	Required
		Actively performing adult to adult living donor liver transplants	≥ 12 over 4 yrs	Required
		<i>Pediatric (17 years old or younger)</i> Actively performing pediatric (deceased and living donor) liver transplants	≥ 16 over 2 yrs and ≥ 5 per yr	Required

CATEGORY	RFI	CRITERIA DESCRIPTION	Threshold	2008 CORE POINTS
OUTCOMES (cont.)				
Survival	UNOS	One-month and one-year patient and graft survival must not be statistically lower than the expected outcome as reported by SRTR for the most recent timeframe available.	Yes	Required
Re-transplants	UNOS SRTR	Overall 1-month and 1-year deceased donor program re-transplant rate	Adults 1mo ≤ 5%	2
			1yr ≤ 7%	2
Primary graft non-function rates	BDCT	Program tracks and collects data.	Yes	Required
		Percentage of adult liver transplant patients that experienced non function for the most current two years	≤5%	2
Hepatic artery thrombosis rates within 90 days of liver transplant	BDCT	Percentage of pediatric liver transplant patients that experienced non function for the most current two years	≤ 7%	1
		Program tracks and collects data	Yes	Required
Death rate per year on waitlist	SRTR	Percentage of adult liver transplant patients that experienced hepatic artery thrombosis within 90 days of transplant	≤ 5%	3
		Percentage of pediatric liver transplant patients that experienced hepatic artery thrombosis within 90 days of transplant	≤ 10%	2
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	Statistically Lower or Not statistically higher	1
			Statistically Higher	0

COMBINATION LIVER-KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

CATEGORY	RFI	CRITERIA DESCRIPTION	Threshold	2008 CORE POINTS
STRUCTURE				
	BDCT	Programs applying for combined liver-kidney transplant must meet BDCT criteria for adult deceased donor liver transplant and perform liver-kidney transplants	Yes	Required
OUTCOMES				
Volume	OPTN	Program has performed at least one transplant over the past two years		Informational

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.