

Blue Distinction Centers for Transplants® Program Selection Criteria for 2010 Mid-Point Designations

To qualify as a Blue Distinction Center for Transplants® (BDCT), each facility must satisfy BDCT's quality based selection criteria. 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 UNOS Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) Experience Data Part F. A mid-level description of the BDCT selection criteria for BDCT's Lung 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 on-site inspections for all new programs and every six years for designated programs.*

LUNG TRANSPLANT

| CATEGORY | RFI# | CRITERIA DESCRIPTION | Threshold | 2010 Core Points |
|--------------------------|------|--|-----------|------------------|
| STRUCTURE | | | | |
| Cardiothoracic Surgery | BDCT | Twenty-four hour, 7 day availability | Yes | Required |
| Bronchoscopy / Endoscopy | BDCT | Twenty-four hour, 7 day availability | Yes | Required |
| Pediatric Pulmonologist | BDCT | Pediatric lung programs transplanting primarily patients age 12 and younger must have a pediatric pulmonologist available to the program in either the primary or alternate physician position (pediatric only) | Yes | Required |
| Rehab | BDCT | Has or makes appropriate referral to rehab program | Yes | Required |
| | | Has American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR) Program Certification (adults only) | Yes | 1 |
| Flolan Therapy | UNOS | Offers Flolan Therapy | | Informational |
| Child Life | UNOS | Has child life programs established and available for pediatric in- and outpatients. (pediatric only) | Yes | 2 |
| Team | BDCT | Must have a pediatric cardiac transplant program that meets current BDCT criteria Transplants must be performed by the pediatric surgical team and managed by pediatric pulmonology OR transplants in patients above the age of 6 may be performed by the adult lung team in which the adult lung transplant program must meet current BDCT criteria. | Yes | Required |

*The BDCT designation is removed from facilities that no longer meet the selection criteria, which are reevaluated for restoration on a case-by-case basis, provided that increasing improvement is shown.

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.

| CATEGORY | RFI# | CRITERIA DESCRIPTION | Threshold | 2010 Core Points |
|--|--------------|---|---|------------------------|
| OUTCOMES | | | | |
| Volume | UNOS SRTR | Adult (18 years old or older) Actively performing adult lung transplants | ≥ 20 over 2 yrs and ≥ 8 per yr | Required |
| | | Pediatric (17 years old or younger) Actively performing pediatric lung transplants | ≥ 3 over 2 yrs | 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 | SRTR | Overall 3-month and 2-year program re-transplant rate of ≤ 3% for adults and ≤ 6% for pediatrics. | Adults 3mo ≤ 3% 2yr ≤ 3% | 2 2 |
| | | | Pediatric 3mo ≤ 6% 2yr ≤ 6% | 2 2 |
| Incidence of Bronchial/Tracheal Stenosis | BDCT | Incidence of Bronchial/Tracheal Stenosis requiring balloon dilatation or stent placement within 1 yr of transplant | < 14% | Adult 4 Pediatric 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 | Statistically Lower or Not statistically different | 1 |
| | | | Statistically Higher | 0 |

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