

BlueDistinction® Centers for Substance Use Treatment and Recovery

Blue Distinction is a national designation given by Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) companies to recognize providers that demonstrate expertise in delivering quality specialty care—safely, effectively and cost-efficiently. The goal of the program is to help consumers find both higher quality and more affordable healthcare for their specialty care needs, while providing a credible foundation on which employers may customize their employee benefits.

Distinction in Local Communities and Nationwide

The Blue Distinction Centers for Substance Use Treatment and Recovery program aims to improve patient outcomes and value by focusing on the treatment of substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder. The program will address the full continuum of care delivery. Facilities delivering one or more of the following levels of care will be considered for designation: residential, inpatient, intensive outpatient, or partial hospitalization services.

Providers must treat opioid use disorders within the broader scope of substance use disorders. Medication-Assisted Therapy (MAT) must be an accessible treatment option for opioid use disorders. Designated facilities will be expected to deliver or facilitate patient-centered, multidisciplinary care within their own integrated delivery system or through direct coordination, including the transition of care between sites and levels of care.

Designation as a Blue Distinction Center for Substance Use Treatment and Recovery differentiates providers locally, as well as nationally. This highly respected designation acknowledges the expertise providers have demonstrated and their commitment to improving quality. Designations are awarded based on quality criteria that support delivery of timely, coordinated, multidisciplinary, evidence-based care, with a focus on quality improvement and patient-centered care.

The new Blue Distinction Centers for Substance Use Treatment and Recovery program will evaluate invited providers in 2019. Designations will be awarded on an ongoing basis, and the program will continue to expand to other sites of care in the future.

Designation Process:

- Invited providers will complete an online survey. Additionally, providers will be evaluated using BCBS claims data, to provide a nationally consistent, equitable, and objective evaluation.
- Providers will also be evaluated under BCBS Brands criteria, as part of the business criteria, before a final eligibility decision can be determined.
- Providers meeting all selection criteria are eligible for designation as Blue Distinction Center for Substance Use Treatment and Recovery, upon full execution of a Participation Agreement.
- BCBS companies will work with designated providers to help them promote their Substance Use Treatment and Recovery designation status.

For more information, please visit [bcbs.com](https://www.bcbs.com).

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