



**Key Date:** Open

April 13, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Kettering Medical Center Achieves Blue Distinction for Spine Surgery**

**KETTERING** – The Wallace-Kettering Neuroscience Institute (WKNI) announced today that Kettering Medical Center has received the prestigious Blue Distinction designation as an Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Spine Specialty Center.

“This is a tremendous honor because the Blue Distinction Centers initiative started 15 years ago - around the same time WKNI started -- and they have extensive experience in working with expert physicians and medical organizations. The goal is to help consumers find quality specialty care,” said Jean Ruppert, Director of WKNI. “Blue Distinction means that we have met rigorous criteria and demonstrated high quality patient outcomes for spine surgery.”

The Blue Distinction designation is based in part on case volumes by organization and each physician, and a minimum number of cases per year. Other quality measure include length of stay, mortality, readmission rates, expertise of surgeons and nurses, intra-operative nerve monitoring, innovative approaches to care and patient educational methods.

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Outstanding physical therapy and rehab capabilities are evaluated, as are the use of evidence-based practices for quality and safety. Spine center choices are growing because the number of spinal fusion surgeries has climbed more than 25 percent in the past 13 years.

“Blue Distinction puts a high value on research and evidence-based health and medical information,” said Allan Korn, MD, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association Chief Medical Officer. “Blue Distinction Centers show our commitment to working with doctors and hospitals in communities across the country to identify leading institutions that meet clinically validated quality standards and deliver better overall outcomes in patient care.”

“We are deliberate in our approach to care and very fortunate to have a great multidisciplinary throughout the organization,” Ruppert said. “This team is dedicated to the delivery of outstanding care for our patients undergoing spine surgery.”

More information on selection criteria is available on [www.bcbs.com](http://www.bcbs.com).

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### **About Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield**

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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 facilities, please call your local Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Plan.