

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**CONTACT:** Rachel Kagno
NWH Public Affairs
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rkagno@partners.org**NEWTON-WELLESLEY HOSPITAL RECOGNIZED FOR EXPERTISE AND
EFFICIENCY IN HIP/KNEE REPLACEMENT AND SPINE SURGERY**

NEWTON, Mass. (May, 2013) -- Newton-Wellesley Hospital has recently been designated a Blue Distinction® Center+ for Knee and Hip Replacement and Spine Surgery by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA). Newton-Wellesley Hospital was evaluated by BCBSMA on our ability to deliver high quality and safe care for patients undergoing knee and hip replacement and spine surgery. Additionally, Newton-Wellesley has also met efficiency measures that address patients' needs for affordable healthcare.

This designation, based on objective, evidence-based selection criteria, indicates to patients and our referring physicians that Newton-Wellesley provides safe, high-quality care when delivering knee/hip replacement and spine surgery. The Blue Distinction Centers initiative has more than 15 years of experience in working with expert physicians and medical organizations to help consumers find quality specialty care while encouraging health care professionals to improve the overall quality and delivery of care.

“This latest recognition underscores our commitment to quality, safety and efficiency at a time when patients are looking for affordable healthcare,” said Timothy Foster, MD, Chair, Department of Orthopaedics at Newton-Wellesley Hospital.

Research confirms that these newly designated Blue Distinction Centers+ demonstrate better quality and improved outcomes for patients, with lower rates of complications and readmissions than their peers. Blue Distinction Centers+ also are more than 20 percent more cost-efficient. The program provides consumers with tools to help them make better informed healthcare decisions. These results will also enable employers, working with their local Blue Plans, to tailor benefits to meet their individual quality and cost objectives.

Based on clinical data from hospitals and registries, research indicates that Blue Distinction Centers demonstrate better, more consistent overall outcomes with fewer post-procedure complications and lower mortality rates. This designation provides consumers with a credible means of selecting facilities that best meet their individual specialty care needs.

The Jim and Ellen Kaplan Joint Center for Reconstruction Surgery is a collaboration between Newton-Wellesley Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital providing superior patient care from diagnosis to recovery. By combining the expertise of orthopaedic surgeons with innovative, specialized services for total joint replacement, we offer a variety of approaches, with minimally invasive surgical and post operative pain control techniques, resulting in the utilization of more outpatient procedures, shorter inpatient stays and decreased recovery time. Additionally, surgeons at the Kaplan Joint Center teach joint replacement techniques to residents, fellows, and other orthopaedic surgeons, and participate in clinical research to improve patient care.

The programs and services offered by The Spine Center at Newton-Wellesley Hospital are appropriate for anyone who suffers from back and neck-related pain that interferes with work, recreational activities or daily living functions. Spine Center specialists care for the full range of spinal disorders affecting the cervical, thoracic and lumbar areas of the spine.

For more information about knee and hip replacement, and spine surgery at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, call CareFinder at (866) NWH-DOCS (694-3627) or visit www.nwh.org.

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