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Memorial's joint replacement program receives national designations

(Yakima) Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital is pleased to announce two significant designations for its joint replacement program.

The Joint Commission recently awarded Memorial with disease specific certification for elective hip and knee replacement. Memorial also has certification for its hip fracture program. The Joint Commission certifications makes Memorial the only hospital in Washington State to have all three orthopedic programs certified. The Joint Commission's "gold seal of approval" is a reflection of Memorial's commitment to meeting specific performance standards for quality.

In addition, Regence Blue Shield has designated Memorial's Joint Advantage program as a Blue Distinction Center for knee and hip replacement. In order to achieve this designation, Memorial had to meet nationally established quality care and outcomes criteria developed with input from the medical community. The hospital also met cost measures that addressed consumers' need for affordable healthcare.

"Patients can be assured they are getting the highest quality, most cost effective care at Memorial," said Dennis Hoover, Administrative Director of orthopedic services at Memorial. "We are proud to be recognized by such prestigious organizations like The Joint Commission and Regence. These recognitions also reflect the high quality orthopedic surgeons that are part of Memorial's medical staff."

To learn more about Memorial's Joint Advantage program log on to yakimamemorial.org/jointadvantage.

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The Joint Commission accredits and certifies more than 20,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. Joint Commission accreditation and certification is recognized nationwide as a symbol of quality that reflects an organization's commitment to meeting certain performance standards.

Blue Distinction® Centers meet overall quality measures for patient safety and outcomes, developed with input from the medical community. Blue Distinction® Centers+ also meet cost measures that address consumers' need for affordable healthcare. Individual outcomes may vary. National criteria is displayed on www.bcbs.com. A Local Blue Plan may require additional criteria for facilities located in its own service area. To find out which services and providers (including hospital based physicians) are covered under your policy, or to learn about Local Blue Plan Criteria, contact your Local Blue Plan; and contact your provider before making an appointment to verify its current Network and Blue Distinction Centers status. Each hospital's Cost Index is calculated separately, based on data from its Local Blue Plan. Hospitals in portions of CA, ID, NY, PA, and WA may lie in areas served by two Local Blue Plans, resulting in two Cost Index figures; and their own Local Blue Plans decide whether all hospitals in these areas must meet Blue Distinction Centers national criteria for one or both Cost Index figures. Neither Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association nor any Blue Plans are responsible for damages, losses, or non-covered charges resulting from Blue Distinction or other provider finder information or care received from Blue Distinction or other providers. To find out more, contact your Local Blue Plan.