



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Texsan Heart Hospital Has Been Designated as a Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care®

San Antonio, TX - Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas has designated Texsan Heart Hospital as a Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care, a recognition given to only about 400 facilities nationwide.

The need for quality cardiac care is urgent: The American Heart Association estimates that this year alone, 1.2 million Americans will experience a first or recurrent heart attack.

Blue Distinction Centers for Cardiac Care demonstrate their commitment to quality care, resulting in better overall outcomes for cardiac patients. Texsan Heart Hospital meets evidence-based clinical criteria, developed in collaboration with expert physicians' and medical organizations, including the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), and is subject to periodic re-evaluation as criteria continue to evolve.*

"Texsan is committed to providing a high level of quality cardiac care to the San Antonio community," said Craig Desmond, President and CEO of Texsan Heart Hospital. "The Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care® designation is another in a long list of recent accolades and accomplishments for our hospital. I am extremely proud of the team we have at Texsan and the dedication to the work they perform on a daily basis."

Among the recent accolades: Texsan Heart Hospital received Excellence Awards from HealthGrades, the leading independent health care ratings organization, it was cited for being among the leading hospitals in America by Consumers' Checkbook survey, according to the May/June 2009 issue of AARP The Magazine, and earlier this year, it was named an American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence®.

Texsan Heart Hospital offers comprehensive cardiac care services, including inpatient cardiac care, cardiac catheterization, a 24/7 full service Heart Emergency Center and cardiac surgery (including coronary artery bypass graft surgery).**

"We are pleased that the designation of Blue Distinction Centers provides another opportunity for Blue Cross to demonstrate our commitment to working with our network of physicians and hospitals who deliver care that meets the high quality standards of the Blue Distinction program," says Dr. Eduardo Sanchez, vice president and chief medical officer, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas. "Because of ongoing quality management and improvement programs, those standards ensure that Blue Distinction Centers will continue to deliver the highest quality, full-service care to their patients."

To be designated as a Blue Distinction Center for Cardiac Care, Texsan Heart Hospital met the selection criteria posted at www.BCBS.com, which includes:

- an established cardiac care program, performing required annual volumes for certain procedures (e.g. a minimum of 125 cardiac surgical procedures annually, including both CABG and/or valve surgery)

- appropriate experience of its cardiac team, including sub-specialty board certification for interventional cardiologists and cardiac surgeons
- an established acute care inpatient facility, including intensive care, emergency and a full range of cardiac services
- full accreditation by The Joint Commission, Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP) or national equivalent**
- low overall complication and mortality rates
- a comprehensive quality management program

Blue Distinction is a designation awarded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies to medical facilities that have demonstrated expertise in delivering quality health care. The designation is based on rigorous, evidence-based selection criteria established in collaboration with expert physicians' and medical organizations' recommendations. Today, more than 800 Blue Distinction Center designations have been awarded to facilities nationwide, providing consumers with a framework for making informed decisions on where to go for specialty care in the areas of bariatric surgery, cardiac care, complex and rare cancers, and transplants.

* These organizations have provided information and input, but do not formally endorse the Blue Distinction Centers program.

** At the discretion of the local BCBS Plan and under a specified contingency process, a facility that provides the full range of cardiac services but does not provide on-site coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery may be considered for Blue Distinction designation if it is part of a cooperative system with a qualifying facility that provides emergency backup CABG for percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) and meets our contingency criteria. Blue Distinction Centers for Cardiac Care without on-site CABG will be differentiated from full-service Blue Distinction Centers for Cardiac Care in program listings.

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.

About Texsan Heart Hospital

Texsan Heart Hospital is located at 6700 IH 10 West and Crossroads Boulevard. It is part of a family of hospitals owned and managed by MedCath. Texsan opened in January 2004 and features comprehensive inpatient and outpatient cardiac care, bariatric services, other acute-care surgical services and a 24-hour full service Heart Emergency Center. For more information, contact Carole Harris, community relations coordinator, at 210.736.8012. For additional information about Texsan Heart Hospital, visit its Web site at www.TexsanHeartHospital.com.

About Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas -- the only statewide, customer-owned health insurer in Texas -- is the largest provider of health benefits in the state, working with nearly 40,000 physicians and 400 hospitals to serve over 4.5 million members in all 254 counties. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas is a Division of Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC), the country's largest customer-owned health insurer and fourth largest health insurer overall. HCSC is a Mutual Legal Reserve Company and an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.