



News Release

Summit Oaks Hospital Designated as a Blue Distinction® Center for Substance Use Treatment and Recovery

Summit, NJ -- December 12, 2019 – To help patients suffering from a substance use disorder find facilities that deliver quality treatment and care, **Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey (Horizon BCBSNJ)** recognizes **Summit Oaks Hospital** as one of the first facilities to receive the Blue Distinction® Center for Substance Use Treatment and Recovery (BDC Substance Use Treatment and Recovery) designation – a new designation under the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program.

Blue Distinction Centers are nationally designated facilities that show a commitment to delivering improved patient safety and better health outcomes, based on objective measures that were developed with input from the community and leading accreditation and quality organizations.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 130 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose, which highlights the seriousness of the opioid epidemic and how critical it is for patients to receive comprehensive, meaningful care. The BDC Substance Use Treatment and Recovery program requires designated facilities to deliver coordinated multidisciplinary care to patients and provide timely access to quality medical and psychosocial care in all phases of treatment. Designated facilities must also offer medication-assisted treatment (MAT) – a way to treat opioid addiction that includes a medication component and behavioral therapy.

“We are honored to have been recognized by Horizon and designated as a Blue Distinction Center,” said **Ross Friedman, CEO of Summit Oaks Hospital**. “We are proud of our Substance Use Treatment Teams and their commitment to assisting individuals in long term recovery. Summit Oaks Hospital is a place of compassion and healing, we strive to make a difference in people’s lives everyday which is reflected in our exceptional patient outcomes. Our hospital and outpatient services continue to grow and are full of caring staff that are patient and dependable.”

According to Suzanne Kunis, Vice-President of Behavioral Health at Horizon BCBSNJ, “Horizon is committed to assuring that all of our members have access to the highest quality treatment for their medical and behavioral health conditions. The Blue Distinction Center is one way that can help consumers identify quality substance use treatment providers. We congratulate Summit Oaks Hospital on being among the first to achieve this distinction and we look forward to continuing our work together to improve our members’ lives through quality substance use treatment.”

Since 2006, the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program has helped patients find quality specialty care in the areas of bariatric surgery, cancer care, cardiac care, cellular immunotherapy, fertility care, gene therapy, knee and hip replacements, maternity care, spine surgery, substance use treatment and recovery, and transplants, while encouraging health care professionals to improve the care they deliver. Research for many programs shows that, compared to other providers, those designated as Blue Distinction Centers demonstrate better quality and improved outcomes for patients.

For more information about the program and for a complete listing of the designated facilities, visit www.bcbs.com/bluedistinction.

Summit Oaks Hospital is a 122-bed acute behavioral health facility that is located in Summit, NJ. We offer effective care through our specialized inpatient and outpatient treatment programs: Adult Psychiatric Program, Adult Co-Occurring Program, Adult Drug & Alcohol Detoxification Program, Adult Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Program (short-term) and a Child/Adolescent Psychiatric Program as well as a Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP). For more information, check out our website at www.summitoakshospital.com or call us at 1-800-753-5223.

About Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, the state's oldest and largest health insurer is a tax-paying, not-for-profit health service corporation, providing a wide array of medical, dental, vision and prescription insurance products and services. Horizon BCBSNJ is leading the transformation of health care in New Jersey by working with doctors and hospitals to deliver innovative, patient-centered programs that reward the quality, not quantity, of care patients receive. Learn more at www.HorizonBlue.com. Horizon BCBSNJ is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association serving more than 3.4 million members.

About Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association is a national federation of 36 independent, community-based and locally operated Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies that collectively provide health care coverage for one in three Americans. BCBSA provides health care insights through [Blue Cross Blue Shield, The Health of America Report®](#) series and the national [BCBS Health IndexSM](#). For more information on BCBSA and its member companies, please visit BCBS.com. We also encourage you to connect with us on [Facebook](#), check out our videos on [YouTube](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

About Blue Distinction Centers

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.