



**BlueCross BlueShield  
Association**

An Association of Independent  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Plans

# AHA Taskforce on Variation in Health Care Spending

O'Hare Hilton, Chicago  
February 10, 2010

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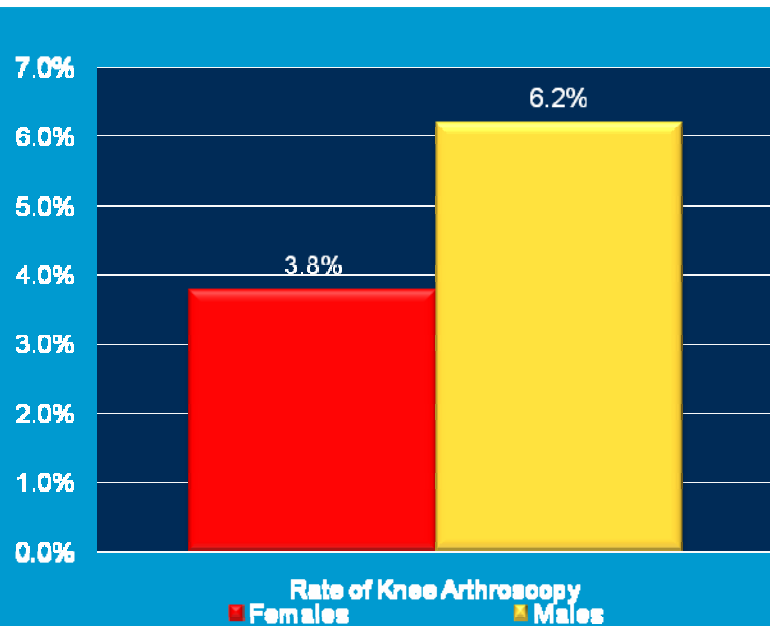
# Variation

- In Utilization and Trend
- In Quality
- In Safety

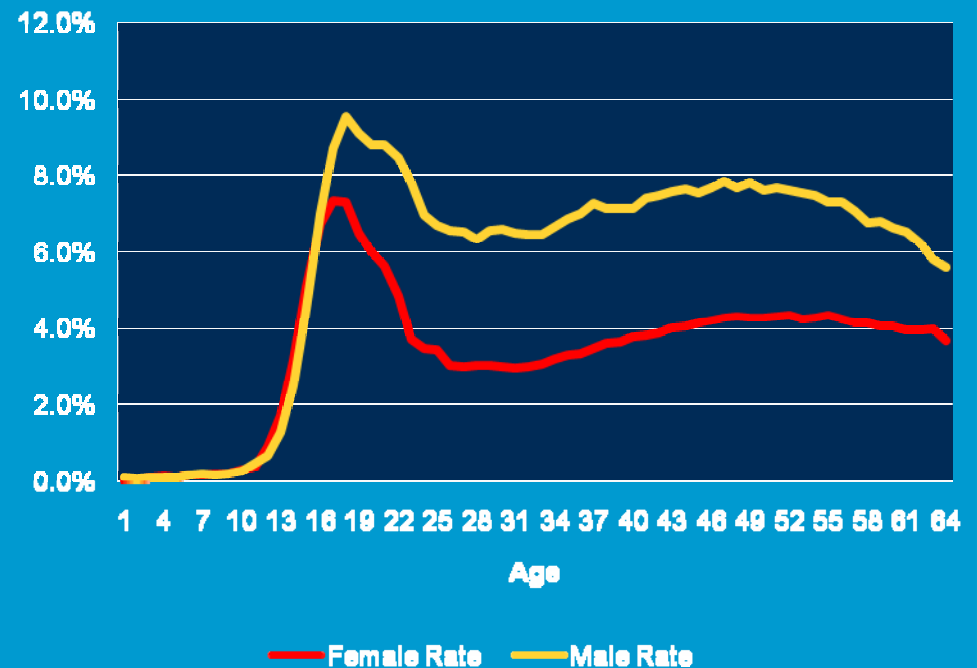
# Key Findings – Profile

Men have a higher rate of arthroscopy overall, consistent with published literature

Rate of Procedure, by Gender

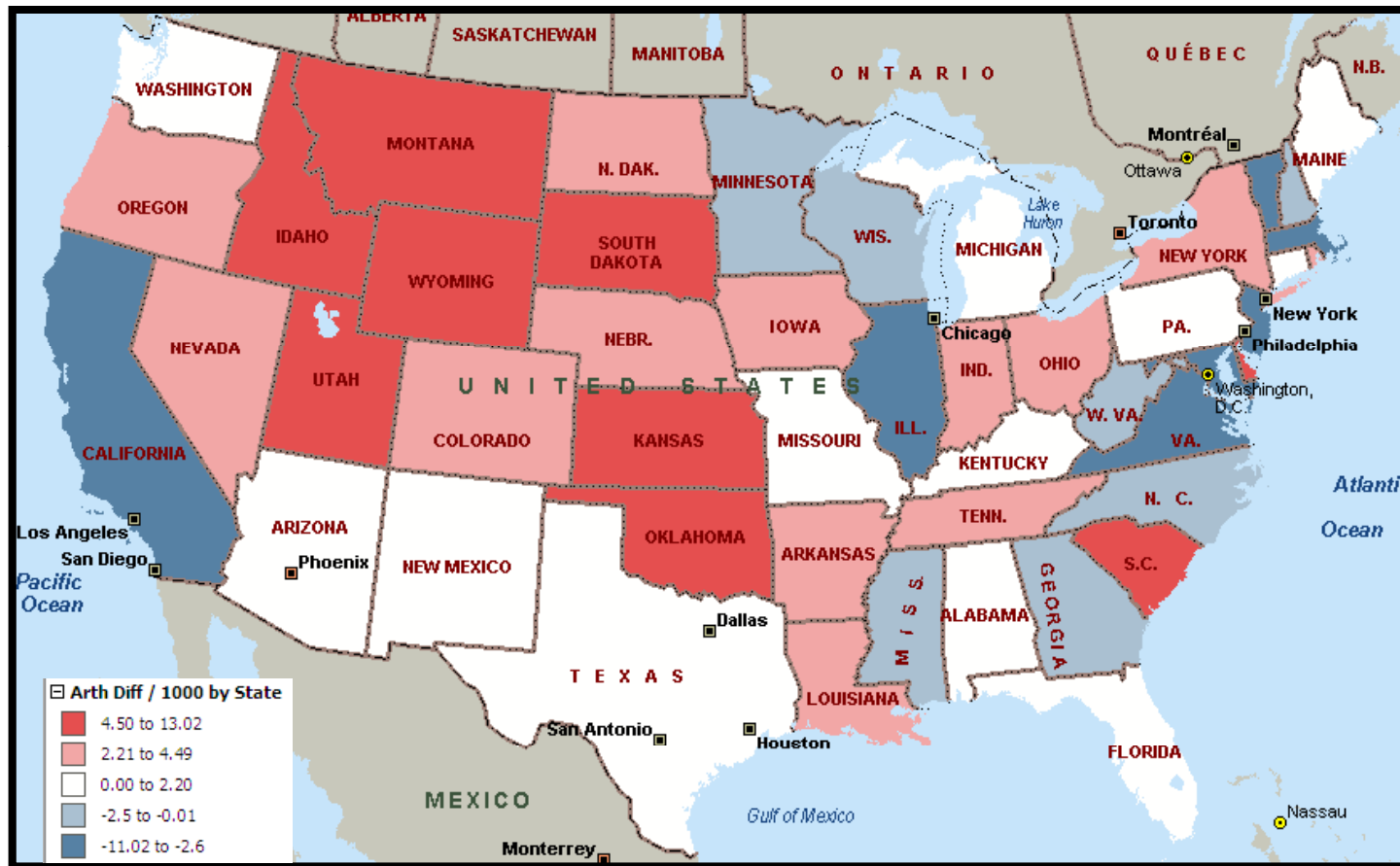


Rate of Procedure, by Gender and Age



# Key Findings – Variability

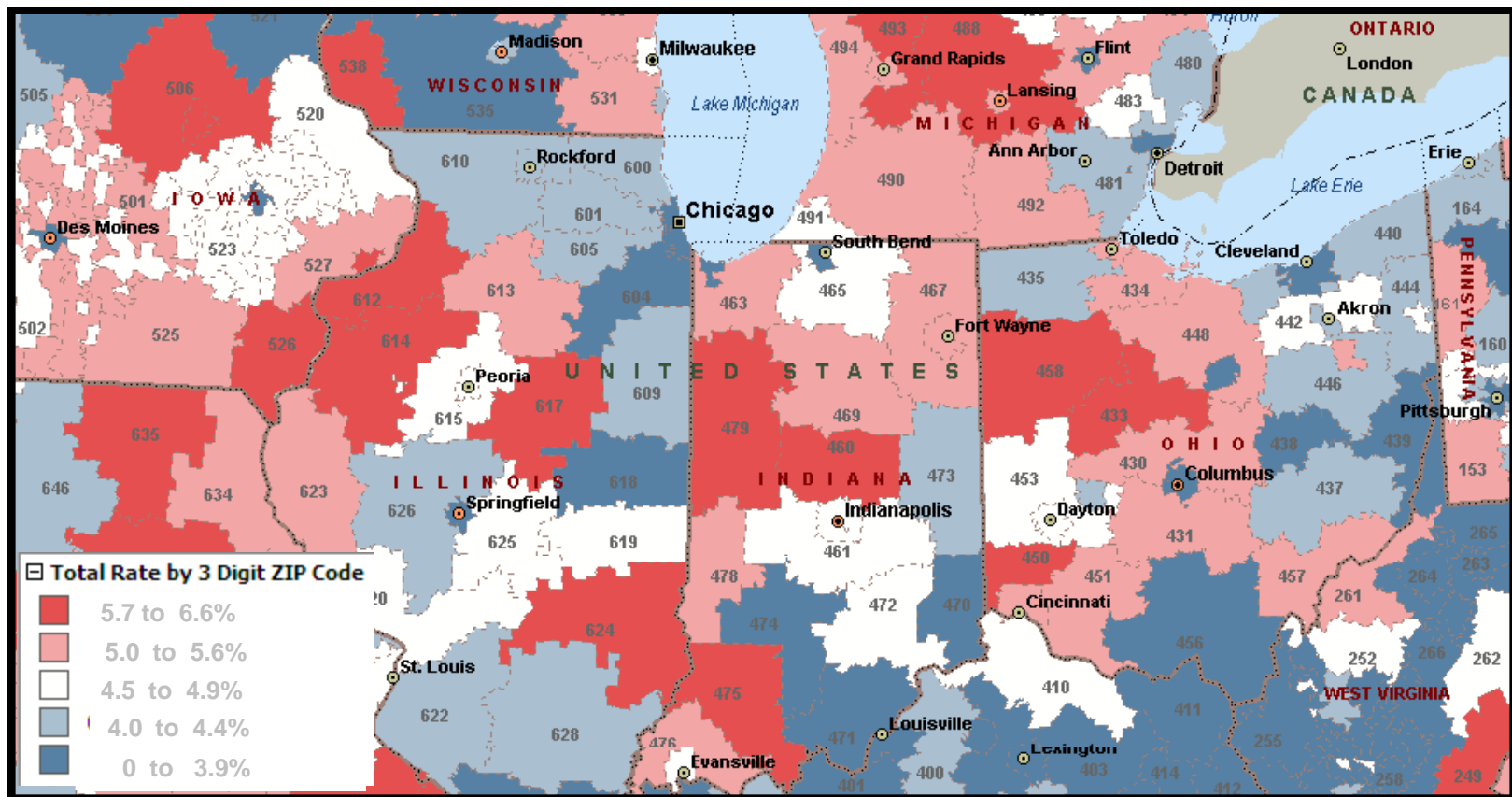
Markets show substantial differences in arthroscopy rates after adjusting for age, gender, industry and type of diagnosis.



Source: Intelimedix – Proprietary & Confidential; BCBSA Analysis

# Key Findings – Variability

These arthroscopy rates can be further refined on a MSA basis



# Program Overview



A national designation awarded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield companies to hospitals and medical facilities that have demonstrated expertise in delivering quality healthcare in the areas of bariatric surgery, cardiac care, complex and rare cancers, transplants and our newest designations in spine surgery and knee/hip replacement. The designation is based on objective, evidence-based selection criteria established in collaboration with expert physicians and medical organizations.

# Geographic Reach



More than 270 medical facilities across 41 states have been designated as **Blue Distinction Centers for Bariatric Surgery**<sup>®</sup>

● **Blue Distinction Centers for Bariatric Surgery**<sup>®</sup>

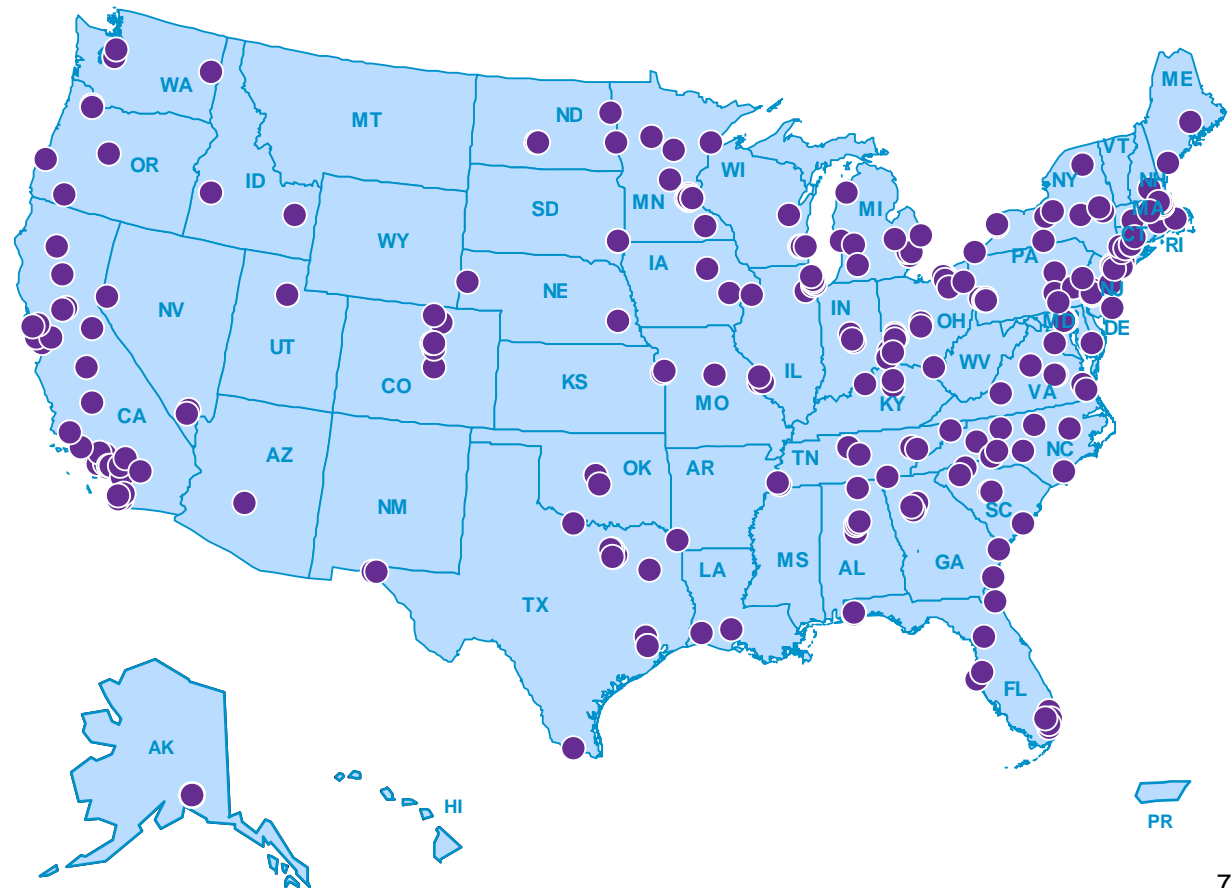
● **Blue Distinction Centers for Cardiac Care**<sup>®</sup>

● **Blue Distinction Centers for Complex and Rare Cancers**<sup>®</sup>

● **Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement**<sup>SM</sup>

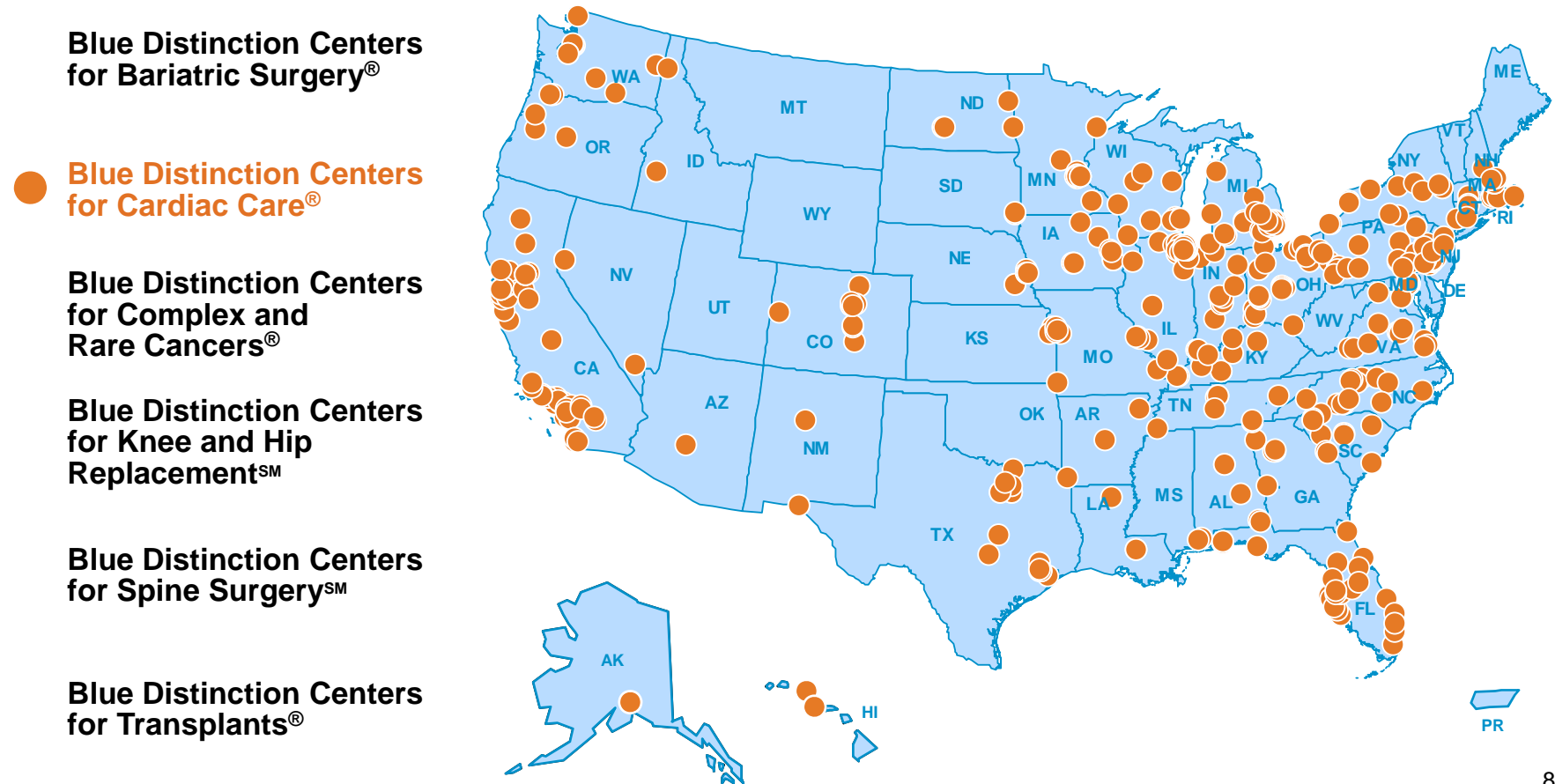
● **Blue Distinction Centers for Spine Surgery**<sup>SM</sup>

● **Blue Distinction Centers for Transplants**<sup>®</sup>



# Geographic Reach

More than 420 medical facilities across 40 states have been designated as **Blue Distinction Centers for Cardiac Care®**







# Geographic Reach



More than 500\* medical facilities across 37 states have been designated as **Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement<sup>SM</sup>**

Blue Distinction Centers for Bariatric Surgery<sup>®</sup>

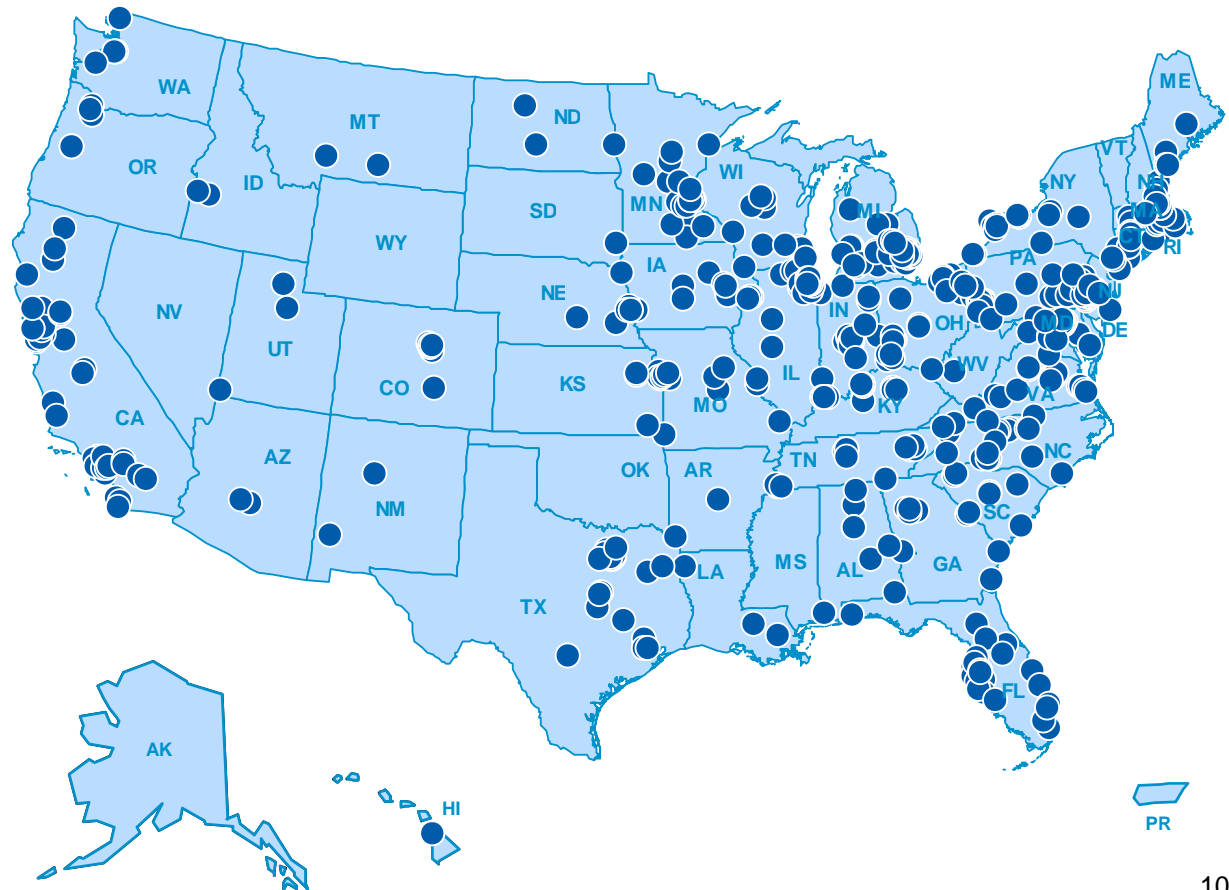
Blue Distinction Centers for Cardiac Care<sup>®</sup>

Blue Distinction Centers for Complex and Rare Cancers<sup>®</sup>

● Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement<sup>SM\*</sup>

Blue Distinction Centers for Spine Surgery<sup>SM</sup>

Blue Distinction Centers for Transplants<sup>®</sup>



\*Approximate number of designated facilities by the end of Q1 2010

# Geographic Reach

More than 300\* medical facilities across 35 states have been designated as **Blue Distinction Centers for Spine Surgery<sup>SM</sup>**

Blue Distinction Centers  
for Bariatric Surgery®

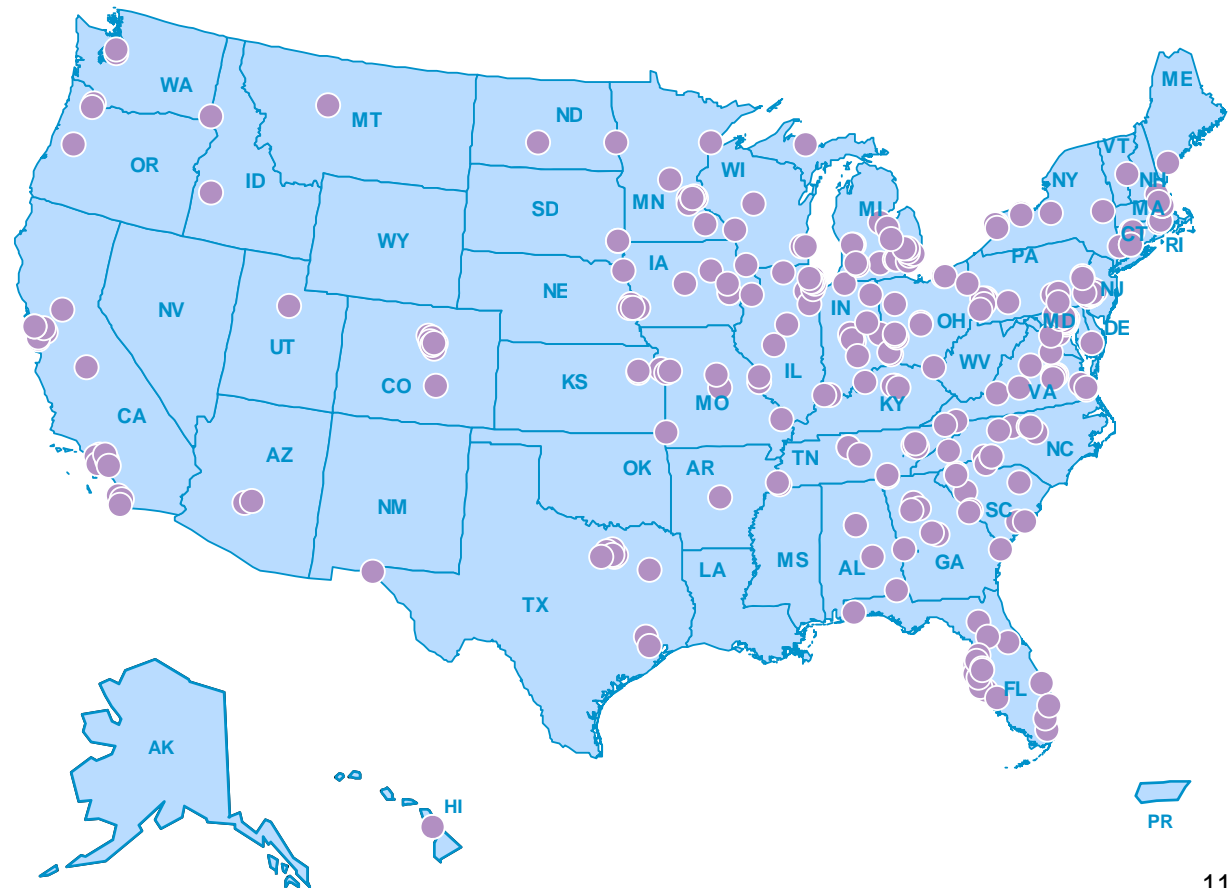
Blue Distinction Centers  
for Cardiac Care®

Blue Distinction Centers  
for Complex and  
Rare Cancers®

Blue Distinction Centers  
for Knee and Hip  
Replacement<sup>SM</sup>

 Blue Distinction Centers  
for Spine Surgery<sup>SM</sup> \*

Blue Distinction Centers  
for Transplants®



\*Approximate number of designated facilities by the end of Q1 2010



# Geographic Reach

The Blues® achieve a national presence, with more than 1,600\* Blue Distinction® designations across 46 states

● Blue Distinction Centers for Bariatric Surgery®

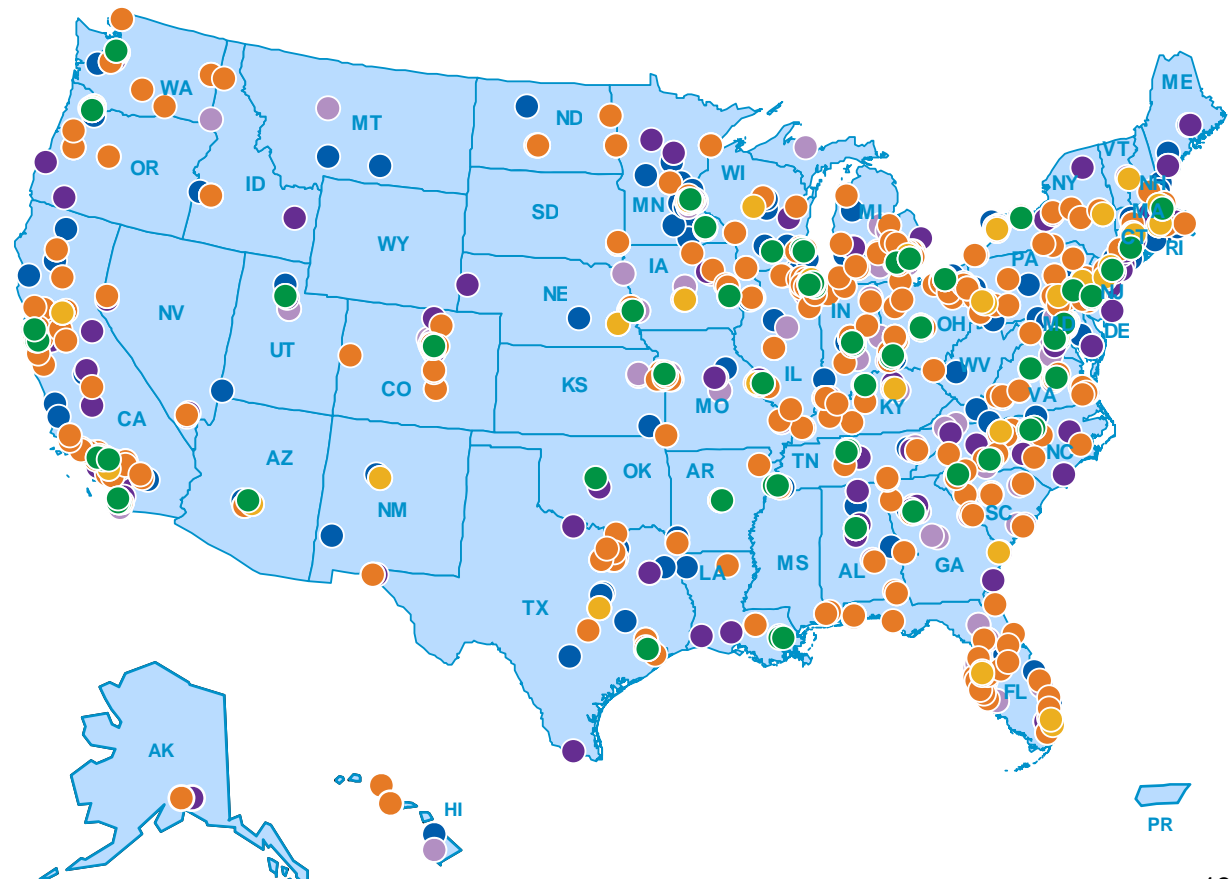
● Blue Distinction Centers for Cardiac Care®

● Blue Distinction Centers for Complex and Rare Cancers®

● Blue Distinction Centers for Knee and Hip Replacement<sup>SM</sup>

● Blue Distinction Centers for Spine Surgery<sup>SM</sup>

● Blue Distinction Centers for Transplants®



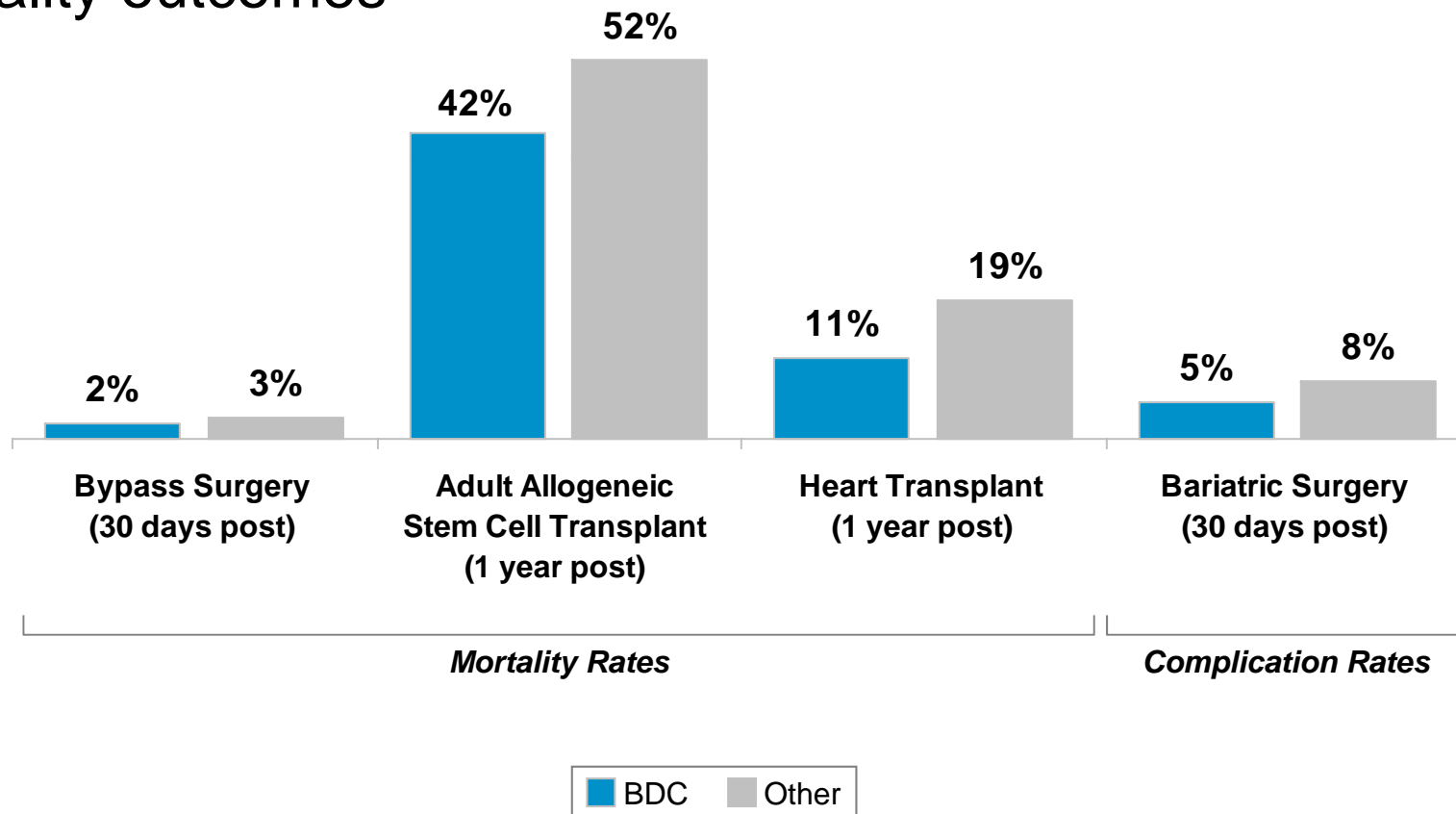
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# Results from RFI Clinical Data

## Patient Outcomes



Blue Distinction Centers deliver significantly better overall quality outcomes

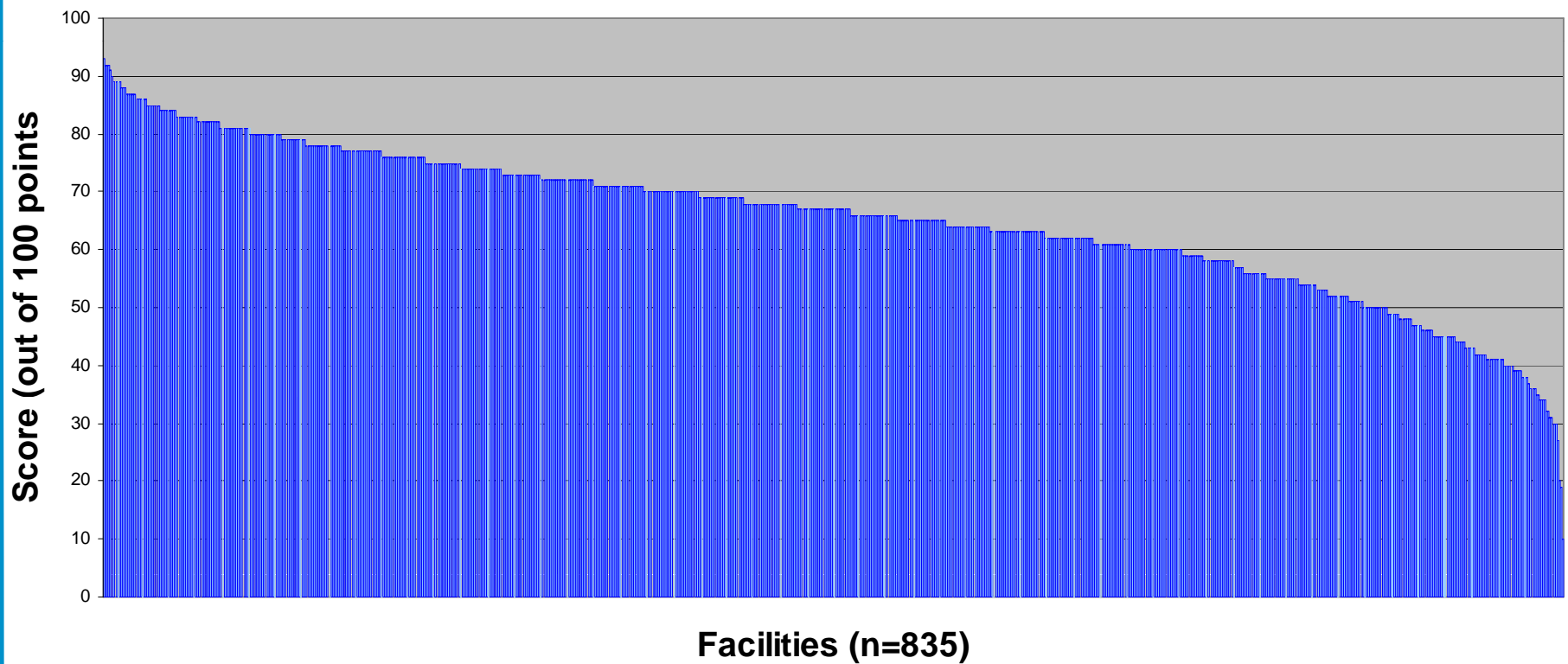


Note: Results shown are mean values. Mortality rates for bypass surgery and heart transplant are risk-adjusted.

Source: BCBSA Analysis of 2005-06 Hospital RFI Data. Bone marrow transplant data based on actuarial data. Heart transplant data include facility results abstracted from the Scientific Registry for Transplant Recipients.

# Variation in Quality

## RFI Scores for Knee and Hip Replacement



# Where does safety fit on this agenda?

- There has been little variation in the safety of health care since the IOM report 10 years ago
- This is unacceptable



# Contact Information

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