Cutting-edge hospitals

The state's largest health insurer recognizes hospitals for their quality of care in certain specialties. Criteria include the medical staff's expertise and patient results. Selected hospitals had fewer complications and readmissions than other medical centers. Hospitals on the list were designated as Blue Distinction Centers as of December 2016.

Alamance Regional Medical Center, Burlington: knee and hip replacement, maternity care

Blue Ridge Regional Hospital, Spruce Pine: maternity care

Caldwell Memorial Hospital, Lenoir: maternity care

Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, Fayetteville: bariatric surgery

CarolinaEast Medical Center, New Bern: cardiac care, maternity care

Carolinas HealthCare System Cleveland, Shelby: maternity care

Carolinas HealthCare System NorthEast, Concord: bariatric surgery, cardiac care, maternity care

Carolinas HealthCare System Pineville, Pineville: cardiac care, maternity care

Carolinas HealthCare System Stanly, Albemarle: maternity care

Carolinas HealthCare System Union, Monroe: maternity care

Carolinas HealthCare System University, Charlotte: maternity care

Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte: cardiac care, complex and rare cancers (acute leukemia, bladder, bone, brain, esophageal, gastric, head and neck, liver, pancreatic, rectal, soft-tissue sarcomas, thyroid), maternity care, spine surgery, transplants (bone-marrow/stem-cell, heart and liver)

Carolinas Medical Center-Mercy, Charlotte: bariatric surgery

CaroMont Regional Medical Center, Gastonia: cardiac care, knee and hip replacement, maternity care, spine surgery

Catawba Valley Medical Center, Hickory: maternity care

Central Carolina Hospital, Sanford: maternity care

Cone Health Women's Hospital, Greensboro: maternity care

Davis Medical Center, Statesville: maternity care

Duke Raleigh Hospital, Raleigh: bariatric surgery, knee and hip replacement, spine surgery

Duke Regional Hospital, Durham: bariatric surgery, knee and hip replacement, maternity care

Duke University Hospital, Durham: cardiac care, complex and rare cancers (acute leukemia, bladder, bone, brain, esophageal, liver, pancreatic, rectal, soft-tissue sarcomas, thyroid), knee and hip replacement, transplants (bone-marrow/stem-cell, heart, liver, lung and pancreas)

FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, Pinehurst: cardiac care, knee and hip replacement, maternity care

Frye Regional Medical Center, Hickory: bariatric surgery, knee and hip replacement, maternity care, spine surgery

Granville Medical Center, Oxford: maternity care

Halifax Regional Medical Center, Roanoke Rapids: maternity care

High Point Regional Health, High Point: cardiac care, knee and hip replacement, maternity care, spine surgery

Iredell Memorial Hospital, Statesville: knee and hip replacement, maternity care

Johnston Health, Smithfield: maternity care

Lake Norman Regional Medical Center, Mooresville: bariatric surgery, maternity care

Pardee Hospital, Hendersonville: knee and hip replacement, maternity care

McDowell Hospital, Marion: maternity care

Mission Hospital, Asheville: bariatric surgery, maternity care

Nash General Hospital, Rocky Mount: bariatric surgery, knee and hip replacement, maternity care

New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Wilmington: bariatric surgery, knee and hip replacement, maternity care, spine surgery

Novant Health Charlotte Orthopedic Hospital, Charlotte: knee and hip replacement, spine surgery

Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center, Winston-Salem: knee and hip replacement, maternity care, spine surgery

Novant Health Huntersville Medical Center, Huntersville: maternity care

Novant Health Matthews Medical Center, Matthews: maternity care

Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center, Charlotte: bariatric surgery, maternity care, spine surgery

Novant Health Rowan Medical Center, Salisbury: knee and hip replacement, maternity care, spine surgery

Onslow Memorial, Jacksonville: maternity care

Randolph Hospital, Asheboro: maternity care

Scotland Memorial Hospital, Laurinburg: maternity care

Sentara Albemarle Medical Center, Elizabeth City: maternity care

The Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital, Greensboro: cardiac care, knee and hip replacement, spine surgery

UNC REX Healthcare, Raleigh: bariatric surgery, cardiac care, knee and hip replacement, maternity care, spine surgery

UNC Hospitals, Chapel Hill: bariatric surgery, cardiac care, complex and rare cancers (acute leukemia, bladder, bone, brain, esophageal, gastric, head and neck, liver, ocular melanoma, pancreatic, rectal, thyroid), knee and hip replacement, maternity care, spine surgery, transplants (bone marrow/stem cell, liver and lung)

Vidant Medical Center, Greenville: bariatric surgery

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Winston-Salem: bariatric surgery, complex and rare cancers (acute leukemia, bladder, bone, brain, esophageal, gastric, head and neck, liver, pancreatic, rectal, soft-tissue sarcomas, thyroid)

WakeMed Cary Hospital: bariatric surgery, knee and hip replacement, maternity care, spine surgery

WakeMed Raleigh Campus, Raleigh: cardiac care, knee and hip replacement, maternity care, spine surgery

Wesley Long Hospital, Greensboro: bariatric surgery, knee and hip replacement

Wilkes Regional Medical Center, North Wilkesboro: maternity care