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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SEQUOIA HOSPITAL'S JOINT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM
RECOGNIZED FOR QUALITY BY BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD**

**National designation places Sequoia among highest performing hospitals with expertise
in delivering quality, safe specialty care with improved patient outcomes**

REDWOOD CITY, CA – October 21, 2013 – Sequoia Hospital, A Dignity Health Member, announced today it has been designated as a Blue Distinction® Center for Knee and Hip Replacement by Blue Shield of California and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. Developed with input from physicians, the Blue Distinction Center program evaluates hospital-based specialty services on their ability to meet nationally established, objective criteria directly impacting results for patients.

According to research, newly designated Blue Distinction Centers, like Sequoia's Joint Replacement program, demonstrate better quality and improved patient outcomes, with lower rates of complications and fewer readmissions than similar specialty services. The Blue Shield Blue Cross program is intended to give consumers the tools to help make better informed health care decisions. The goals are to improve the overall patient experience and provide value to consumers.

“This designation reflects the total commitment of our staff, multi-disciplinary medical team, and leading orthopedic surgeons working together to provide the highest standard of advanced care for hip and knee replacement,” said Bradley Graw, MD, orthopedic surgeon.

“Sequoia is known for clinical excellence in orthopedic care, and we are proud of our comprehensive joint replacement program that enables patients to return to the fullest, most active lifestyle possible,” commented James Hartford, MD, orthopedic surgeon. “We are honored to be recognized by Blue Shield Blue Cross in their efforts to help patients find the highest quality programs to meet their needs.”

[About Sequoia Hospital](#)

Sequoia Hospital, a Dignity Health Member, is an accredited, not-for-profit community hospital providing innovative and exceptional health care for generations of Bay Area residents. In 2014, the hospital will celebrate the opening of a rebuilt, state-of-the-art medical campus, including modernized emergency services and an all-new pavilion with three floors of larger, private patient rooms.

Recognized for superior and sustained clinical quality, the hospital received the 2013 America's 50 Best Hospitals Award™ and the 2013 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence™ from HealthGrades®, a leading provider of comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals. Sequoia's Heart and Vascular Institute is a nationally known pioneer in advanced cardiac care. The hospital was voted "A Family Favorite 2013 Best Birth Center and Best Hospital" by readers of *Bay Area Parent* magazine.

To learn more, please visit our website:

www.SequoiaHospital.org

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