

# Spine Centers of Excellence Overview

## Key Facts and Figures

- The spine program will be available to patients beginning 4/1/15
- The program will launch with three Centers of Excellence
- Lowe's covers all deductibles, copays, travel, and reasonable living expenses for the patient and a companion while at a Center of Excellence

## Centers of Excellence

The Spine Centers of Excellence were selected using a comprehensive evaluation process. Centers must demonstrate exceptional clinical outcomes and patient experience, including shared decision-making. Many spine surgeries are unnecessary and potentially harmful. Centers were specifically evaluated on their use of evidence-based medicine and consistently applied appropriateness criteria.



- △ Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, PA
- △ Mercy Hospital, Springfield, Springfield, MO
- △ Virginia Mason Medical Center, Seattle, WA

## Procedures Covered

Spinal Fusion (cervical and lumbar)  
Total Disk Arthroplasty (Artificial Disk)  
Removal Vertebral Body  
Spine Surgery Revisions  
Scoliosis  
Laminectomy  
Discectomy  
Other Inpatient Complex Spine Surgeries

## Procedures Not Covered

Kyphoplasty  
Vertebroplasty

## Who can participate?

Eligible employees and their covered dependents will have the opportunity to receive care at a center of excellence facility. Patients must be healthy enough to travel for the surgery. The program is voluntary and employees or their covered dependents can still choose to receive care from local providers and incur routine costs.

## Is this program right for me?

If your doctor has recommended back surgery, the Spine Centers of Excellence may be right for you. Potential patients participating in the program receive concierge-level support from their initial call inquiring about the program. All eligible patients are scheduled for an in-person comprehensive spine evaluation including orthopedics and/or neurosurgery, pain management, rehabilitation and psychology specialists to determine the best treatment plan.

## What happens at the center of excellence?

Patients who are appropriate surgical candidates remain in the center city for their procedure after their evaluation. After their inpatient stay, patients are discharged to a hotel and monitored for several days before a final visit to clear them for travel home and a handoff to their home provider. If surgery is not appropriate, patients and their caregivers are counselled on non-surgical options and recommendations are shared with the patient's home provider.