



## Clinical Medical Policy Bariatric Surgery

### Benefit Description:

Conditional benefit; approval is based on review of medical necessity documentation.

### Coverage Determination:

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (Neighborhood) covers Bariatric Surgery, otherwise referred to as Gastric Bypass Surgery, as a clinical option when determined medically necessary by the Medical Management Department.

Although bariatric surgery is not the first option for treatment of obesity, it can be an important option for some Neighborhood members. A medically supervised weight loss program is required **when BMI is < 40**, for at least a four (4) month period within the last year, prior to the request.

Prior authorization is required.

The member's Primary Care Practitioner or surgeon must submit the *Neighborhood Prior Authorization for Gastric Bypass Surgery* request form along with required information to Neighborhood for review. Required information for consideration and approval of the surgical procedure includes:

- Documentation of co-morbid conditions and the impact obesity and these conditions have on activities of daily living
- Confirmation of medically supervised effort at weight loss for at least six months within the last year.
- Confirmation of ability to comply with medical therapy.
- Confirmation that no psychiatric or psychosocial co-morbidities exist which would interfere with adequate follow-up.

### Criteria:

Bariatric surgery is considered a clinical option for patients who meet the following criteria:

- Age 21 or older
- Super morbid obesity, i.e. a BMI > 50
- BMI > 40 and obesity-related physical problems that interfere with activities of daily living, or
- BMI between 35 and 40 with life-threatening obesity-related health problems such as diabetes, severe sleep apnea, or heart problems

### Covered Procedures:

- Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding
- Open and laparoscopic Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass
- Open and laparoscopic Biliopancreatic Diversion with duodenal switch

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**CMP Number:**

CMP-004.02



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### ***CMP Cross Reference:***

### ***References:***

BC Referenced:

Gonzalez, Rodrigo, et al "Gastric Bypass for Morbid Obesity in patients 50 years or older: Is Laparoscopic Technique Safer?" American Surgeon, July 2003 Vol 69 pages 547-554

Liu, Jerome H. et al "Characterizing the Performance and Outcomes of Obesity Surgery in California", American surgeon, 2003 Vol 69 p 823-828

Santry HP, Gillen DL, Lauderdale DS "Trends in Bariatric Surgery Procedures", JAMA 2005 294 (15):1909-17

CMS - Details for: Medicare Expands National Coverage for Bariatric Procedures, February 2006  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=1786>

The Miriam Hospital Weight Loss Program  
<http://www.lifespan.org/tmh/services/behavhealth/wtmgmt/about.htm>

### ***Created:***

***Annual Review Month:***

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