

Department of Origin:	Effective Date:
Integrated Healthcare Services	12/03/24
Approved by:	Date Approved:
Medical Policy Quality Management Subcommittee	12/03/24
Clinical Policy Document:	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated:
Clinical Policy Document: Bariatric Surgery for Obesity	Replaces Effective Clinical Policy Dated: 12/12/23
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#### **PURPOSE:**

The intent of this clinical policy is to ensure services are medically necessary.

Please refer to the member's benefit document for specific information. To the extent there is any inconsistency between this policy and the terms of the member's benefit plan or certificate of coverage, the terms of the member's benefit plan document will govern.

#### **POLICY:**

Benefits must be available for bariatric surgery when used for treatment of obesity. Requests for these same procedures for other diagnoses are out of scope of this policy and the bariatric surgery benefit coverage language. Health care services must be ordered by a provider. Health care services must be medically necessary, applicable conservative treatments must have been tried, and the most cost-effective alternative must be requested for coverage consideration. Plans may have access restrictions for bariatric surgery.

#### **GUIDELINES:**

Medical Necessity Criteria - Must satisfy the following: I - II, and III - VI as applicable

- I. Coverage for *bariatric surgery* any of the following: A C
  - A. Aspirus, Inc. Employee Health Plan (Group Plan Number ASP20000) *Bariatric surgery* is covered for members receiving treatment from Surgical Associates at Aspirus Wausau Hospital

[Note: Limited to one surgical treatment per lifetime, except when due to complications from a prior bariatric surgery. Covered services also include the first consultation visit, even if the surgery itself is not approved as a covered service. If the surgery is approved, all covered services received in preparation for surgery (eg, qualified practitioner-guided weight loss program, x-ray/lab tests, etc.) will be considered a covered service by the plan.]

- B. ETF Health Plan (Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds) *Bariatric surgery* is covered for members (does not require a specific treatment provider/facility)
- C. All other plans/groups *Bariatric surgeries*, including preoperative procedures, initial procedures, surgical revisions and subsequent procedures are excluded from coverage.
- II. Request is for the following routine open or laparoscopic (including robotic-assisted) bariatric surgery procedures must satisfy any of the following: A D
  - A. Biliopancreatic Diversion with Duodenal Switch (BPD/DS)
  - B. Adjustable Gastric Banding
  - C. Gastric Bypass (eg, Roux-en Y)
  - D. Sleeve Gastrectomy



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- III. Requests for initial bariatric surgery must satisfy the following: A or B
  - A. Aspirus, Inc. Employee Health Plan (Group Plan Number ASP20000) must satisfy all of the following: 1
     4
    - 1. Members must be aged 20 years or older; and
    - 2. The member has any of the following: a or b
      - a. Class III obesity (BMI greater than or equal to 40kg/m²); or
      - b. Class II obesity (BMI greater than or equal to  $35 \text{kg/m}^2$  and less than  $40 \text{kg/m}^2$ ) members must have a serious medical condition(s), exacerbated by or caused by obesity not controlled despite maximum medical therapy and member compliance with a medical treatment plan, including but not limited to any of the following: 1) 7)
        - Severe obstructive sleep apnea defined as apnea-hypopnea index (AHI) equal to or greater than 30 events per hour; or
        - 2) Cardiovascular disease (eg, stroke, myocardial infarction, poorly controlled hypertension [systolic blood pressure 140mm/Hg or higher or diastolic blood pressure 90 mm/Hg or higher, despite pharmacotherapy]); or
        - 3) History of coronary artery disease with a surgical intervention such as coronary artery bypass or percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty; or
        - 4) History of cardiomyopathy; or
        - 5) Type 2 diabetes mellitus; or
        - 6) Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD); or
        - 7) Arthritis of a weight bearing joint
    - 3. The member must have attempted a physician-guided weight loss program within the past year and for at least a six-month period.
  - B. ETF Health Plan (Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds) must satisfy either of the following: 1 or 2
    - 1. Members aged 18 years or older must satisfy: a or b, and c
      - a. Class III obesity (BMI greater than or equal to 40kg/m² [or greater than or equal to 37.5 kg/m² for members of *Asian descent*]); or
      - b. Class II obesity (BMI greater than or equal to  $35 \text{kg/m}^2$  and less than  $40 \text{kg/m}^2$  [or greater than or equal to  $32.5 \text{ kg/m}^2$  and less than or equal to  $37.4 \text{ kg/m}^2$  for members of *Asian descent*]) with any of the following conditions 1) 5)
        - 1) Severe obstructive sleep apnea defined as apnea-hypopnea index (AHI) equal to or greater than 30 events per hour; or
        - 2) Cardiovascular disease (eg, stroke, myocardial infarction, poorly controlled hypertension [systolic blood pressure 140mm/Hg or higher or diastolic blood pressure 90 mm/Hg or higher, despite pharmacotherapy]); or
        - 3) History of coronary artery disease with a surgical intervention such as coronary artery bypass or percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty; or
        - 4) History of cardiomyopathy; or
        - 5) Type 2 diabetes mellitus.
      - c. The member meets either of the following: 1) or 2)
        - 1) Documentation supports both of the following: a) and b)



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- a) Completion of a preoperative evaluation that includes a detailed weight history along with dietary and physical activity patterns; and
- b) Psychosocial-behavioral evaluation by an individual who is professionally recognized as part of a behavioral health discipline to provide screening and identification of risk factors or potential postoperative challenges that may contribute to a poor postoperative outcome.
- 2) Participation in a multidisciplinary surgical preparatory regimen.
- 2. Members aged 17 years or less must satisfy the following: a c
  - a. Have attained Tanner 4 or 5 pubertal development (see Attachment B) or have a bone age of greater than or equal to 13 years in girls or 15 years in boys; and
  - b. The member has any of the following: 1) or 2)
    - 1) Class III obesity (140% of the 95th percentile height, or an absolute BMI greater than or equal to 40kg/m² [or greater than or equal to 37.5 kg/m² for members of *Asian descent*], whichever is lower); or
    - 2) Class II obesity (120% of the 95th percentile height, or an absolute BMI greater than or equal to 35kg/m² and less than 40kg/m² [or greater than or equal to 32.5 kg/m² and less than or equal to 37.4 kg/m² for members of Asian descent], whichever is lower) with any of the following conditions: a) c)
      - a) Poorly controlled hypertension (systolic blood pressure 140mm/Hg or higher or diastolic blood pressure 90 mm/Hg or higher, despite pharmacotherapy); or
      - b) Type 2 diabetes mellitus; or
      - c) Severe obstructive sleep apnea (apnea-hypopnea index [AHI] equal to or greater than 30 events per hour).
  - c. The member has undergone an evaluation at, or in consultation with, a multidisciplinary center focused on the surgical treatment of severe childhood obesity.
- IV. Conversion of bariatric surgery to another bariatric surgery to treat complications from a prior bariatric surgerymust satisfy the following: A and B

[Note: For Aspirus, Inc. Employee Health Plan (Group Plan Number ASP20000) only - Surgical intervention is limited to once per lifetime. If an urgent or emergency medical admission is required due to complications of this surgery, the Plan will cover one additional surgical intervention to repair the original surgery.]

- A. If required by plan language, surgery for complications is performed no later than 1 year after the first *bariatric surgery*; and
- B. Documentation of complication(s) (see Attachment C)
- V. Revision of bariatric surgery must satisfy the following: A and B, or C

[Note: For Aspirus, Inc. Employee Health Plan (Group Plan Number ASP20000) only - Surgical intervention is limited to once per lifetime. If an urgent or emergency medical admission is required due to complications of this surgery, the Plan will cover one additional surgical intervention to repair the original surgery.]



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- A. If required by plan language, surgery for complications is performed no later than 1 year after the first *bariatric surgery*.
- B. Revision of an initial *bariatric surgery* and/or replacement of an implanted device to treat complications from a prior *bariatric surgery* (see Attachment C); or
- C. Revision of an initial *bariatric surgery* to treat severe side effects, such as but not limited to, persistent nausea and vomiting, intolerance to solid food, or severe dumping syndrome.
- VI. Reversal (takedown) of bariatric surgery must satisfy the following: A and B, or C

[Note: For Aspirus, Inc. Employee Health Plan (Group Plan Number ASP20000) only - Surgical intervention is limited to once per lifetime. If an urgent or emergency medical admission is required due to complications of this surgery, the Plan will cover one additional surgical intervention to repair the original surgery.]

- A. If required by plan language, surgery for complications is performed no later than 1 year after the first bariatric surgery.
- B. Must have documented complications from the initial bariatric surgery (see Attachment C); or
- C. Reversal of an initial *bariatric surgery* to treat severe side effects, such as but not limited to, persistent nausea and vomiting, intolerance to solid food, or severe dumping syndrome.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

### Asian Descent:

Having origins from the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent (eg, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam)

#### Bariatric Surgery:

Surgery and related services for the treatment of obesity

#### Body Mass Index (BMI):

Determined by weight (kilograms)/height (meters)<sup>2</sup>

#### Conversion of bariatric surgery:

Change from one type of bariatric procedure to a different bariatric procedure (eg, conversion from a vertical gastric band to a Roux-en-Y).

#### Designated participating bariatric surgery program:

Accredited as a Comprehensive Center, a Comprehensive Center with Adolescent Complications, a Comprehensive Center with Obesity Medicine Qualifications, a Comprehensive Center with Adolescent and Obesity Medicine Qualifications, a Low Acuity Center, an Adolescent Center, or an Ambulatory Surgery Center through the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP)), a joint program of the American College of Surgeons and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgeons

#### Multidisciplinary:

Combining or involving several academic disciplines or professional specializations in an approach to create a well-trained, safe and effective environment for the complex bariatric patient. Building the multidisciplinary team includes staff such as the bariatric surgeon, obesity medicine specialist, registered dietician, specialized nursing,



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behavioral health specialist, exercise specialist and support groups (American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) textbook of bariatric surgery)

## Revision of bariatric surgery:

To restore the effectiveness of the original bariatric surgery

Reversal (Takedown) of bariatric surgery: Reverse the anatomic changes from the initial bariatric surgery



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Prior Authorization: Yes, per network provider agreement

Precertification: Yes

#### **CODING:**

CPT® or HCPCS

43644 Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; with gastric bypass and Roux-en-Y gastroenterostomy (roux limb 150cm or less)

43645 Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; with gastric bypass and small intestine reconstruction to limit absorption

43770 Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; placement of adjustable gastric restrictive device (eg, gastric band or subcutaneous port components)

43771 Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; revision of adjustable gastric restrictive device component only

43772 Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; removal of adjustable gastric restrictive device component only

43773 Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; removal and replacement of adjustable gastric restrictive device component only

43774 Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; removal of adjustable gastric restrictive device and subcutaneous port components

43775 Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; longitudinal gastrectomy (ie, sleeve gastrectomy)

43842 Gastric restrictive procedure, without gastric bypass, for morbid obesity; vertical banded gastroplasty

43843 Gastric restrictive procedure, without gastric bypass, for morbid obesity; other than vertical-banded gastroplasty

43845 Gastric restrictive procedure with partial gastrectomy, pylorus-preserving duodenoileostomy and ileoileostomy (50 to 100cm common channel) to limit absorption (biliopancreatic diversion with duodenal switch) 43846 Gastric restrictive procedure, with gastric bypass for morbid obesity; with short limb (150cm or less) Rouxen-Y gastroenterostomy

43847 Gastric restrictive procedure, with gastric bypass for morbid obesity; with small intestine reconstruction to limit absorption

43848 Revision, open, of gastric restrictive procedure for morbid obesity, other than adjustable gastric restrictive device

43860 Revision of gastrojejunal anastomosis (gastrojejunostomy) with reconstruction, with or without partial gastrectomy or intestine resection; without vagotomy

43865 Revision of gastrojejunal anastomosis (gastrojejunostomy) with reconstruction, with or without partial gastrectomy or intestine resection; with vagotomy

43886 Gastric restrictive procedure, open; revision of subcutaneous port component only

43887 Gastric restrictive procedure, open; removal of subcutaneous port component only

43888 Gastric restrictive procedure, open; removal and replacement of subcutaneous port component only

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#### REFERENCES:

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- 2. Clinical Policy: MP/C009 Coverage Determination Guidelines
- 3. Clinical Issues Committee of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. Updated Position Statement on Sleeve Gastrectomy as a Bariatric Procedure. Surgery for Obesity and Related Diseases. 13(2017)1652-1657.



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## Attachment A - Body Mass Index Conversion Table

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107	-	113 1	118 1	124 13	30 13	135 14	141 146		152 158	8 163	3 169	3 175	180	186	191	197	203	208	3 214	220	226	231	237	242	248	254	259	265	270	278	282	287	283	299 304
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132	*	139 148	48	153 16	60 16	167 17	174 181	11 188	38 195	5 202	2 209	9 216	3 222	229	236	243	220	792	7 264	271	872	285	292	298	306	313	320	327	334	至	348	355	362	369 376
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0	-	140 147 154		162 16	69 17	177 18	184 19	191 199	99 206	6 213	3 221	1 228	3 235	5 242	250	258	265	5 272	2 279	287	25	302	309	316	324	331	338	346 353		361	388	375	383	390 397
4		151 159		166 17	74 18	182 18	189 197		204 212	2 219	9 227	7 235	5 242	250	257	265	272	280	288	295	302	310	378	325	333	340	348	355	363	371	378	386	393	401 408
45		133	163	171	79 18	186 18	194 202		210 218	8 225	5 233	3 241	1 249	526	264	272	8	287	7 295	303	3	319	326	334	342 350	350	358	365	373	381	389	396	404	412 420
152	-	160 168	68 1	176 18	15	192 20	200 208		216 224	4 232	2 240	0 248	3 256	264	272	279	287	, 295	5 303	31	319	327	335	343	361	359	367	375	383	391	388	407	407 415 423	(23 431
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## Attachment B - Sexual maturity rating (Tanner stages) of secondary sexual characteristics

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Boys - Development of external genitalia
Stage 1: Prepubertal
Stage 2: Enlargement of scrotum and testes; scrotal skin reddens and changes in texture
Stage 3: Enlargement of penis (length at first); further growth of testes
Stage 4: Increased size of penis with growth in breadth and development of glans; testes and scrotum larger, scrotal skin darker
Stage 5: Adult genitalia
Girls - Breast development
Stage 1: Prepubertal
Stage 2: Breast bud stage with elevation of breast and papilla; enlargement of areola
Stage 3: Further enlargement of breast and areola; no separation of their contour
Stage 4: Areola and papilla form a secondary mound above level of breast
Stage 5: Mature stage: projection of papilla only, related to recession of areola
Boys and girls - Pubic hair
Stage 1: Prepubertal (the pubic area may have vellus hair, similar to that of forearms)
Stage 2: Sparse growth of long, slightly pigmented hair, straight or curled, at base of penis or along labia
Stage 3: Darker, coarser and more curled hair, spreading sparsely over junction of pubes
Stage 4: Hair adult in type, but covering smaller area than in adult; no spread to medial surface of thighs
Stage 5: Adult in type and quantity, with horizontal upper border
. IC B. FN O. WAN

Retrieved from: Biro FM, Chan YM. Normal puberty (Topic 5849, Version 54.0; last updated 09/24/24). In: Blake D, ed. *UpToDate*, Waltham, Mass.: UpToDate; 2024. <a href="https://www.uptodate.com">www.uptodate.com</a>. Accessed 09-25-24.

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# **Attachment C**

Complications from Bariatric Surgery<sup>6</sup>, such as but not limited to:

Bariatric Surgery	Early Complications	Late Complications
BPD/DS	Anastomotic leak Anastomotic stenosis/small bowel obstruction GI abdominal hemorrhage	Incisional hernia Small bowel obstruction
LABG	Gastroesophageal perforation Band slippage Acute stomal obstruction Band infection Bleeding Intractable vomiting Gastric prolapse Excessive incorporation of fat into the band device	Band slippage with or without gastric pouch dilation Band erosion Esophageal dilation (resulting in delayed esophageal emptying, dysphagia, vomiting and reflux/esophagitis) Obstruction Device-related complications including failure to lose weight or maintain weight loss Gastric necrosis
RNYGBP	Anastomotic leak Small bowel obstruction/ileus GI hemorrhage	Anastomotic stricture Small bowel obstruction/ileus
VSG	Proximal leaks Bleeding along staple line	Gastroesophageal reflux Vomiting Gastric tube stricture Stenosis Leak Incisional hernia Gastrocutaneous fistula Weight regain Gastric tube dilation Proximal stomach dilation (neofundus)

## PreferredOne Community Health Plan Nondiscrimination Notice

PreferredOne Community Health Plan ("PCHP") complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. PCHP does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

#### PCHP.

Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:

- · Qualified sign language interpreters
- Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)

Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:

- Qualified interpreters
- · Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact a Grievance Specialist.

If you believe that PCHP has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with:

Grievance Specialist
PreferredOne Community Health Plan
PO Box 59052
Minneapolis, MN 55459-0052
Phone: 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013)
Fax: 763.847.4010
customerservice@preferredone.com

You can file a grievance in person or by mail, fax, or email. If you need help filing a grievance, a Grievance Specialist is available to help you.

You can also file a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights, electronically through the Office for Civil Rights Complaint Portal, available at <a href="https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf">https://ocrportal.hhs.gov/ocr/portal/lobby.jsf</a>, or by mail or phone at:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, SW Room 509F, HHH Building Washington, D.C. 20201 1-800-368-1019, 800-537-7697 (TDD)

Complaint forms are available at <a href="http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html">http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/office/file/index.html</a>.

# **Language Assistance Services**

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ATTENTION: If you do not speak English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013).
ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013)
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# **PreferredOne Insurance Company Nondiscrimination Notice**

PreferredOne Insurance Company ("PIC") complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. PIC does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Provides free aids and services to people with disabilities to communicate effectively with us, such as:

- · Qualified sign language interpreters
- Written information in other formats (large print, audio, accessible electronic formats, other formats)

Provides free language services to people whose primary language is not English, such as:

- Qualified interpreters
- Information written in other languages

If you need these services, contact a Grievance Specialist.

If you believe that PIC has failed to provide these services or discriminated in another way on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex, you can file a grievance with:

Grievance Specialist PreferredOne Insurance Company PO Box 59212 Minneapolis, MN 55459-0212 Phone: 1.800.940.5049 (TTY: 763.847.4013) Fax: 763.847.4010 customerservice@preferredone.com

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