

# Premier Health Insuring Corporation

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Number: PA.040.PC  
Last Review Date: 09/10/2015  
Effective Date: 01/01/2016  
Renewal Date: 01/01/2017

### PA.040.PC – Bariatric Surgery

This policy applies to the following line(s) of business:

- ✓ Premier Health Insuring Corporation MA – DSNP

Premier Health Insuring Corporation considers Bariatric Surgery medically necessary for the following indications:

#### Bariatric Surgery for Adults - **Initial Bariatric Surgery:**

The following bariatric surgical procedures are considered to be medically appropriate and eligible for payment when the following medical necessity criteria listed below are met:

- Open and Laparoscopic Roux-en-Y (RYGP)
- Open and Laparoscopic Biliopancreatic Diversion with Duodenal switch, (BPD)
- Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding(LASGB)
- Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy as a first stage procedure or as a primary procedure (Excluded by Medicare<sup>6</sup>)

#### **Criteria for Adult (> 18 years) Initial Bariatric Surgery:**

Initial bariatric surgical procedures listed above are considered medically necessary when all of the following are met:

1. The member must be at least 18 years of age (See Adolescent Bariatric Surgery Section for indications for those between 13 and 18 years of age). Bariatric surgery is not recommended for members under the age of 13.
2. The member has no medical, cognitive, or other psychiatric condition that is likely to interfere with their ability to manage the sequelae of the surgery.
3. Members with a history of psychiatric or psychological disorder or who are currently under the care of a psychologist/psychiatrist, or on psychotropic medications, must undergo preoperative psychological evaluation and clearance including documentation of the evaluation and assessment.
4. Females of child bearing age: Must be informed that maternal malnutrition (as a result of the surgery) may impair fetal development.
5. The requirements specified for a member's documented BMI according to the following categories listed below:

➤ **BMI equal or greater than 35**

Member must meet both of the below criteria:

- Must have one or more of the following co-morbidities:

## PA.040.PC – Bariatric Surgery

Policy Number: PA.040.PC  
Last Review Date: 09/10/2015  
Effective Date: 01/01/2016  
Renewal Date: 01/01/2017

- Diabetes with glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1C) > 8.0 on one or more medications
- Significant cardiovascular disease (e.g. coronary artery disease (CAD) under treatment, right ventricular hypertrophy (RVH) or left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH), cardiomyopathy)
- Hypertension requiring triple therapy (drug regiment containing three different types of medication: a diuretic, calcium channel blocker, and long-action selective angiotensin II receptor blocker)
- Hyperlipidemia (>30mg/dl above goal) on maximum doses of monotherapy
- Symptomatic sleep apnea (apnea-hypopnea index [AHI] >10) or Chronic Pulmonary disease requiring at least one (1) medication or Positive Airway Pressure (PAP) devices (e.g. pulmonary hypertension, Pickwickian syndrome).
- Pseudo tumor cerebri (documented idiopathic intracerebral hypertension)
- Hepatic steatosis without prior evidence of active inflammation
- Severe arthropathy of spine and/or weight-bearing joints (when obesity prohibits appropriate surgical management of joint dysfunction treatable but for obesity)

And

- Must have documentation of successful completion of a physician-supervised weight loss program\* (with a goal of 5%-10% body mass decrease) over six months which includes:
  - Compliance with attendance >80% of classes
  - Program completed no longer than one year prior to the request for surgery
  - Nutritional counseling
  - Exercise
  - Behavior modification components
  - Weight loss or weight stability but not weight gain

### Repeat, Revision Bariatric Surgery:

Repeat or revision bariatric surgery is considered medically necessary for any of the following:

1. To correct complications from surgery such as obstructions or strictures.
2. Conversion to a Roux-en-Y (RYGP) or Biliopancreatic Diversion with Duodenal Switch (BPD) when the member has not had loss of more than 50% of excess body weight two years after primary bariatric surgery and they have been compliant with prescribed nutrition and exercise program.

## PA.040.PC – Bariatric Surgery

Policy Number: PA.040.PC  
Last Review Date: 09/10/2015  
Effective Date: 01/01/2016  
Renewal Date: 01/01/2017

3. When the primary procedure has failed due to dilation of the gastric pouch if both of the following conditions exist:
  - If the primary procedure was successful in inducing weight loss prior to the pouch dilation  
And
  - The member has been compliant with the prescribed nutrition and exercise program

### **Adolescent Bariatric Surgery:**

Adolescent bariatric surgical candidates need to have medical care provided in a multi-disciplinary environment including specialists in adolescents.

### **Adolescent Bariatric Surgical Procedures:**

The following bariatric surgical procedures are considered to be medically appropriate and eligible for payment when all of the following medical necessity criteria listed below are met:

- Laparoscopic Roux-en-Y gastric bypass (RYGB)
- Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding(LASGB)
- Laparoscopic Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy

### **Criteria for Adolescent Bariatric Surgery:**

Adolescent Bariatric Surgery requires mandatory secondary medical review prior to approval. Bariatric surgical procedures are considered medically necessary for adolescents (between 13 and 18 years of age) when all of the following are met<sup>3</sup>:

1. The member has achieved full or nearly full (e.g., greater than or equal to 95%) skeletal growth/maturity documented by radiologic study.
2. The member has demonstrated commitment to comprehensive pediatric psychological evaluation both before and after surgery and agrees to avoid pregnancy for at least 1 year postoperatively.
3. The member has no medical, cognitive, or other psychiatric condition that is likely to interfere with their ability to manage the sequelae of surgery. E.g.
  - No drug or alcohol misuse by history OR drug and alcohol free period  $\geq$  1 year
  - No behavioral health disorder by history OR behavioral health disorder treated
4. The requirements specific for a member's documented BMI according to the following categories listed below:

➤ **BMI equal to or greater than 35 and less than 40:**

Member must meet both criteria:

- Must have one or more of the following co-morbidities:
  - Type 2 diabetes mellitus

## PA.040.PC – Bariatric Surgery

Policy Number: PA.040.PC

Last Review Date: 09/10/2015

Effective Date: 01/01/2016

Renewal Date: 01/01/2017

- Moderate or severe obstructive sleep apnea (AHI  $\geq$  15 events/hour)
- Pseudo tumor cerebri
- Severe nonalcoholic steatohepatitis

And

- Must have documentation of successful completion of a physician-supervised weight loss program\* (with a goal of 5%-10% body mass decrease) over six month duration which includes:
  - Compliance with attendance  $>$ 80% of classes
  - Program completed no longer than one year prior to the request for surgery
  - Nutritional counseling
  - Exercise
  - Behavior modification components
  - Weight loss or weight stability but not weight gain

### ➤ **BMI equal to or greater than 40**

Member must meet both criteria:

- Must have one or more of the following co-morbidities:
  - Any of the co-morbidities listed directly above in the Section- BMI equal to or greater than 35 and less than 40
  - Medically refractory hypertension
  - Dyslipidemia
  - Obstructive sleep apnea (AHI  $\geq$  5 events per hour)
  - Venous stasis disease
  - Panniculitis
  - Stress urinary incontinence
  - Significant impairment in activities of daily living
  - Moderate to severe nonalcoholic fatty liver disease
  - Gastro esophageal reflux
  - Severe psychosocial distress
  - Significantly impaired quality of life
  - Weight-related arthropathies

And

- Must have documentation of successful completion of a physician-supervised weight loss program\* (with a goal of 5%-10% body mass decrease) over six (6) month duration which includes:
  - Compliance with attendance  $>$ 80% of classes
  - Program completed no more than one year prior to the request for surgery
  - Nutritional counseling

## PA.040.PC – Bariatric Surgery

Policy Number: PA.040.PC  
Last Review Date: 09/10/2015  
Effective Date: 01/01/2016  
Renewal Date: 01/01/2017

- Exercise
- Behavior modification components
- Weight loss or weight stability but not weight gain

### Limitations:

Procedures listed in this policy are eligible for payment only when less intensive treatments have been attempted and proven unsuccessful. Weight management interventions that employ dietary, exercise, or medical methods must be attempted.

\*For members with BMI >35 and <55 -Weight loss attempts without physician supervision through such programs as Weight Watchers, Curves, personal trainers etc. are insufficient to meet the criteria above.

### Background

Obesity continues to be a major public health problem in the United States, with more than one-third of adults considered obese, as defined by body mass index (BMI). There are approximately 15 million people in the United States with a BMI greater than or equal to 40.

Obesity may be caused by medical conditions such as hypothyroidism, Cushing's disease, and hypothalamic lesions or can aggravate a number of cardiac and respiratory diseases as well as diabetes and hypertension. Some of the most important and common co-morbidities include hypertension; dyslipidemia; type 2 diabetes; coronary heart disease; stroke; gallbladder disease; osteoarthritis; sleep apnea; respiratory problems; and endometrial, breast, prostate, and colon cancers. Because of the relative lack of success of most weight loss programs, persons with co-morbid conditions related to obesity have turned to bariatric surgery at an exponentially increasing rate.

International Classification of adult underweight, overweight and obesity according to BMI from the World Health Organization (WHO)

Classification	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Underweight</b>	<b>&lt;18.50</b>
Severe thinness	<16.00
Moderate thinness	16.00 - 16.99
Mild thinness	17.00 - 18.49
<b>Normal range</b>	<b>18.50 - 24.99</b>
<b>Overweight</b>	<b>≥25.00</b>
Pre-obese	25.00 - 29.99

## PA.040.PC – Bariatric Surgery

Policy Number: PA.040.PC  
 Last Review Date: 09/10/2015  
 Effective Date: 01/01/2016  
 Renewal Date: 01/01/2017

<b>Obese</b>	<b>≥30.00</b>
Obese Class I	30.00 - 34.99
Obese Class II	35.00 - 39.99
Obese Class III	≥40.00

### Codes:

#### CPT Codes / HCPCS Codes / ICD-10 Codes

Code	Description
<b>CPT Codes</b>	
43644	Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; with gastric bypass and roux-en-y gastroenterostomy (roux limb 150 cm or less)
43645	Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; with gastric bypass and small intestine reconstruction to limit absorption
43659	Unlisted laparoscopy procedure, stomach
43770	Gastric restrictive procedure; placement of adjustable gastric band
43771	Gastric restrictive procedure; revision of adjustable gastric band
43773	Gastric restrictive procedure; removal and replacement of adjustable gastric band
43775	Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; longitudinal gastrectomy (i.e. sleeve gastrectomy)
43845	Gastric restrictive procedure, with partial gastrectomy, pylorus preserving duodenoileostomy and ileoileostomy (50 to 100 cm common channel) to limit absorption (biliopancreatic diversion with duodenal switch).
43846	Gastric restrictive procedure, w/bypass; w/short limb Roux-en-Y gastroenterostomy
43847	Gastric restrictive procedure, w/bypass; w/small bowel reconstruction
43848	Revision of gastric restrictive procedure

### References

1. American Diabetes Association. Standards of medical care in diabetes-2014. Diabetes Care. 2014 Jan;37(1):S14-S80.  
[http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/37/Supplement\\_1/S14.full](http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/37/Supplement_1/S14.full)

## PA.040.PC – Bariatric Surgery

Policy Number: PA.040.PC

Last Review Date: 09/10/2015

Effective Date: 01/01/2016

Renewal Date: 01/01/2017

2. American Diabetes Association. Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes - 2013. Diabetes Care. 2013 Jan; 36(Suppl 1):S11-S66. doi: 10.2337/dc13-S011. [http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/36/Supplement\\_1/S11.full.pdf+html](http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/36/Supplement_1/S11.full.pdf+html)
3. Barnett SJ. Bariatric surgical management of adolescents with morbid obesity. Curr Opin Pediatr. 2013 Aug;25(4):515-20. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23817303>
4. Barnett SJ. Contemporary surgical management of the obese adolescent. Curr Opin Pediatr. 2011 Jun;23(3): 351-355. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21572387>
5. Brethaur S. [American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery]: ASMBS Position Statement on Preoperative Supervised Weight Loss Requirements Surg Obes Rel Dis. 2011 May-Jun;7(3):257-60. doi: 10.1016/j.soard.2011.03.003. Epub 2011 Mar 16. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1550728911001353>.
6. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. National Coverage Determination (NCD). No. 100.1. Bariatric Surgery for the Treatment of Morbid Obesity. Effective Date of this Version: 12/17/2013. <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=57&ncdver=5&bc=AgAAgAAAAAAAAA%3d%3d&>
7. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: National Coverage Determination (NCD). No. 40.5. Treatment of Obesity. Effective Date of this Version: 02/21/2006. <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/ncd-details.aspx?NCDId=38&ncdver=3&DocID=40.5&SearchType=Advanced&bc=IAAAAgAAAAAAAAA%3d%3d&>
8. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Local Coverage Determination (LCD): No. L34495. Bariatric Surgical Management of Morbid Obesity. (Contractor: Novitas Solutions, Inc.). Revision Effective Date: 10/03/2014. [http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=34495&ContrId=318&ver=16&ContrVer=1&CntrctrSelected=165\\*2&Cntrctr=165&name=Novitas+Solutions%2c+Inc.+\(12501%2c+MAC+-+Part+A\)&s=45&DocType=All&bc=AggAAAIACAAAAA%3d%3d&](http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/lcd-details.aspx?LCDId=34495&ContrId=318&ver=16&ContrVer=1&CntrctrSelected=165*2&Cntrctr=165&name=Novitas+Solutions%2c+Inc.+(12501%2c+MAC+-+Part+A)&s=45&DocType=All&bc=AggAAAIACAAAAA%3d%3d&)
9. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Decision Memo for Bariatric Surgery for the Treatment of Morbid Obesity (CAG-00250R). [https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=160&ver=32&NcaName=Bariatric+Surgery+for+the+Treatment+of+Morbid+Obesity+\(1st+Recon\)&bc=BEAAAAAAEAga](https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=160&ver=32&NcaName=Bariatric+Surgery+for+the+Treatment+of+Morbid+Obesity+(1st+Recon)&bc=BEAAAAAAEAga)
10. Hayes Medical Technology Directory. Malabsorptive Bariatric Surgery: Open and Laparoscopic Biliopancreatic Diversion. Annual Review: June 28, 2011.
11. Hayes Medical Technology Directory: Laparoscopic Bariatric Surgery: Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass, Vertical Banded Gastroplasty and Adjustable Gastric Banding. Annual Review: June 24, 2011.
12. Inge TH, Zeller MH, Jenkins TM, et al. Perioperative outcomes of adolescents undergoing bariatricsurgery- The Teen-Longitudinal Assessment of Bariatric Surgery

## PA.040.PC – Bariatric Surgery

Policy Number: PA.040.PC

Last Review Date: 09/10/2015

Effective Date: 01/01/2016

Renewal Date: 01/01/2017

- (Teen-LABS) Study. JAMA Pediatr. 2014 Jan;168(1):47-53. doi: 10.1001/jamapediatrics.2013.4296.  
<http://archpedi.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1765638>
13. International Pediatric Endosurgery Group: IPEG Guidelines for Surgical Treatment of Extremely Obese Adolescents. J Laparoendosc Adv Surg Tech A. 2008 Dec;18(6):xiv-xvi. doi: 10.1089/lap.2008.9987.  
<http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/abs/10.1089/lap.2008.9987> ,
  14. Lap-BandAP System: Identifying a Lap-Band Patient. ©2014, , Apollo Endosurgery, Inc.. <http://www.lapband.com/HCP/identifying-a-patient/>
  15. Mechanick JI, Youdim A, Jones DB, et al. Clinical practice guidelines for the perioperative nutritional, metabolic and nonsurgical support of the bariatric surgery patient - 2013 update: cosponsored by the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists/The Obesity Society, and the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery. Endocr Pract. 2013 Mar-Apr;19(2):337-372. doi: 10.4158/EP12437.GL. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4140628/>
  16. MedicineNet.com: Definition of bariatric surgery. [Internet]. Revised: 9/20/2012. Available at: <http://www.medterms.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=23436>
  17. Michalsky M, Reichard K, Inge T, et al. [American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery]. ASMBS pediatric committee best practice guidelines. Surg Obes Rel Dis., 2012 Jan-Feb;8(1):1-7. doi: 10.1016/j.soard.2011.09.009. Epub 2011 Sep 23. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1550728911006927>
  18. National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI): Calculate Your Body Mass Index. Accessed: 12/22/2014. <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/obesity/BMI/bmicalc.htm>
  19. National Institutes of Health: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI): Obesity Education Initiative, The Practical Guide: Identification, Evaluation and Treatment of Overweight and Obesity in Adults. NIH Pub #00-4084, October 2000. [http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/obesity/prctgd\\_c.pdf](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/obesity/prctgd_c.pdf)
  20. National Institutes of Health: National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease (NIDDK). Weight-Control Information Network: Bariatric Surgery for Severe Obesity. NIH Publication No. 08-4006. March 2009. Updated June 2011. <http://www.win.niddk.nih.gov/publications/gastric.htm>
  21. Solomon H, Liu GY, Alami R, et al. Benefits to patients choosing preoperative weight loss in gastric bypass surgery: new results of a randomized trial. J Am Coll Surg. 2009 Feb; 208(2):241-245.  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S107275150801483X>
  22. WebMD. What happens during weight loss surgery? [Internet]. Reviewed: by Melinda Ratini. May 29, 2012. Available at: <http://www.webmd.com/diet/weight-loss-surgery/weight-loss-what-happens-during-bariatric-surgery>
  23. World Health Organization (WHO) – BMI Classification. Last updated 08/09/2015. [http://apps.who.int/bmi/index.jsp?introPage=intro\\_3.html](http://apps.who.int/bmi/index.jsp?introPage=intro_3.html)



## PA.040.PC – Bariatric Surgery

Policy Number: PA.040.PC  
Last Review Date: 09/10/2015  
Effective Date: 01/01/2016  
Renewal Date: 01/01/2017

### **Disclaimer:**

Premier Health Insuring Corporation medical payment and prior authorization policies do not constitute medical advice and are not intended to govern or otherwise influence the practice of medicine. The policies constitute only the reimbursement and coverage guidelines of Premier Health Insuring Corporation and its affiliated managed care entities. Coverage for services varies for individual members in accordance with the terms and conditions of applicable Certificates of Coverage, Summary Plan Descriptions, or contracts with governing regulatory agencies.

Premier Health Insuring Corporation reserves the right to review and update the medical payment and prior authorization guidelines in its sole discretion. Notice of such changes, if necessary, shall be provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of provider agreements and any applicable laws or regulations.

These policies are the proprietary information of Evolent Health. Any sale, copying, or dissemination of said policies is prohibited.