

Medicare (1/11)

- BMI of 35 or greater with one of the following life-threatening or disabling comorbid conditions: poorly controlled type II diabetes, poorly controlled hypertension, poorly controlled dyslipidemia, severe cardiopulmonary disease (e.g. coronary disease, CHF, asthma, COPD, pulmonary hypertension), obstructive sleep apnea, severe arthropathy of weight bearing joints or pseudotumor cerebri
- Surgery is medically appropriate for the patient
- Letter of support from primary care physician
- There is documented evidence of repeated failure of multiple attempts to lose weight on a supervised non-surgical management weight loss program (e.g., diet, exercise or drugs). It would be expected that a weight loss program would consist of compliance with a physician directed program for at least a consecutive 6 month period without significant gaps. Monthly documentation of the beneficiary's compliance should include: vital signs to include weight, current dietary program, physical activity/exercise program, behavioral interventions, consideration of or use of pharmacotherapy with FDA- approved medication, if appropriate
- Psychological evaluation (and counseling)
- Treatable metabolic causes for obesity (e.g., adrenal, pituitary or thyroid disorders) have been ruled out or if present have been maximally clinically treated if present Surgery performed at ASBS Center of Excellence
- Gastric bypass, Lap-band and BPD/DS procedures are covered. The sleevegastrectomy is not covered by Medicare.
- Our surgeons are designated as an ASBS Center of Excellence.