

BlueCross Arkansas (3/08)

<http://www.arkbluecross.com/members/report.aspx?policyNumber=1998118>

20 years of age or older

- BMI of 40 or greater OR BMI 36 – 39 with a high-risk co-morbid condition such as uncontrolled diabetes mellitus, uncontrolled obstructive sleep apnea, uncontrolled hypertension or uncontrolled hyperlipidemia
- Have failed a structured weight loss program
- Are well motivated and understand the risks of the surgery and the restricted eating habits which follow surgery
- Gastric bypass and Lap-band procedures are covered

Age 13 to 19

- BMI of 40 or greater with serious co morbidities such as type 2 diabetes mellitus, obstructive sleep apnea, pseudotumor cerebri
- BMI of 50 or more with less severe co morbidities such as hypertension, dyslipidemia, gastroesophageal reflux
- Unsuccessful physician-monitored weight loss attempt for at least 6 months
- Achieved 95% or more of his/her adult height by determination of bone age
- Psychological assessment to determine decision-making capacity, ability to give informed consent, and willingness to adhere to requirements of postoperative care
- Gastric bypass and Lap-band procedures are covered. Sleeve gastrectomy is covered for members with super-super-obesity (BMI greater than 60), with severe cardiac or pulmonary comorbidities, that would preclude other surgical procedures for the treatment of morbid obesity. Sleeve gastrectomy in any other circumstances does not meet member certificate of benefit Primary Coverage Criteria for effectiveness. There is lack of evidence supporting effectiveness of the procedure in these circumstances or its superiority compared to commonly performed procedures.