

BlueCross Illinois (7/01/07)

http://medicalpolicy.hcsc.net/medicalpolicy/home?corpEntCd=IL1&corpEntCd=IL1&ctype=POLICY&cat=Surgery&path=/templatedata/medpolicies/POLICY/data/SURGERY/SUR716.003_2007-07-01#hlink

BlueCross Texas (7/01/07)

http://medicalpolicy.hcsc.net/medicalpolicy/home?corpEntCd=TX1&corpEntCd=IL1&ctype=POLICY&cat=Surgery&path=/templatedata/medpolicies/POLICY/data/SURGERY/SUR716.003_2007-07-01#hlink

- BMI of 40 or greater OR BMI 35 -39 with at least two of these conditions which have not responded to maximum medical management and which are generally expected to be reversed or improved by bariatric treatment: hypertension, dyslipidemia, diabetes mellitus, coronary heart disease, or sleep apnea
- Medical record documentation of active participation in a clinically-supervised, non-surgical program of weight reduction for at least 6 months occurring within the 24 months prior to the proposed surgery. The BMI at the beginning of a weight reduction program will be the “qualifying” BMI used to meet the BMI criteria for the definition of morbid obesity. The program must include nutritional therapy such as a very low calorie diet OR a recognized commercial diet-based weight loss program such as Weight Watchers, Jenny Craig, etc. It must also include behavior modification, counseling and instruction on exercise and increased physical activity, pharmacologic therapy (as appropriate) and ongoing support for lifestyle changes to make and maintain appropriate choices that will reduce health risk factors and improve overall health
- Diagnosed as morbidly obese for at least 5 years
- PCP Letter
- 18 year of age or documentation of completion of bone growth
- Psychological evaluation completed within the 12 months preceding the request for surgery
- Gastric bypass and Lap-band procedures are covered
- Revision: met all screening criteria for original surgery including BMI requirement, has been compliant with the prescribed nutrition and exercise program, significant complications or technical failure (i.e. break down of gastric pouch, slippage, breakage or erosion of gastric band, bowel obstruction, etc.)