

BlueCross Minnesota (7/11/07)

<http://www.bluecrossmn.com> (Link to site only)

- BMI greater than 40 OR BMI 35-39 with a co-morbid condition such as hypertension refractory to a standard drug regimens, cardiovascular disease, degenerative joint disease, documented obstructive sleep apnea, severe persistent asthma, or diabetes
- Patient must participate in at least one medically supervised attempt to lose weight within the past two years. The medically supervised treatment must have been at least 6 months in duration and must be under the direction of a medical doctor (MD or DO), physician's assistant (PA), nurse practitioner (NP), or a registered dietitian supervised by an MD, DO, PA or NP. The patient's participation in a structured weight loss program must be documented in the medical record by the attending physician who supervised the patient's progress. A physician's notation, alone, is not sufficient documentation. Documentation should include medical records of the patient's progress throughout the course of the weight loss program.
- The condition of morbid obesity must be of at least two years duration. Because attempts to lose weight over this two-year period may cause the patient's BMI to fluctuate around the required levels, the two-year time period will not necessarily start over, or be prolonged, but will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Consult with surgeon
- Psychological evaluation
- Gastric bypass and Lap-band procedures are covered. Coverage for the sleeve gastrectomy for patients with a BMI > 50 and significant co-morbidities will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Revision: Subsequent surgery for morbid obesity is subject to the previous criteria