

BlueCross New Jersey Horizon (5/07)

<https://services3.horizon-bcbsnj.com/hcm/MedPol2.nsf>

- BMI of 40 to 60 OR BMI 35-39 with associated life-threatening or disabling co-morbidities including, but not limited to, coronary heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, or obstructive sleep apnea. Other comorbid conditions to be considered are: hyperlipidemia, severe GERD, non-alcoholic fatty liver (NASH), osteoarthritis, depression, etc. (Bariatric surgery for members whose BMI exceeds 60 is considered investigational since it has not been proven to result in improved health outcomes in this specific subset of individuals)
- Diagnosed as morbidly obese for at least 5 years
- 18 years of age and/or has reached full skeletal growth
- PCP Letter
- Preoperative assessment including psychological evaluation and clearance
- Formal documentation from the treating physician that the patient has tried a supervised conservative weight loss program for at least 6 consecutive months but has failed to achieve or maintain long-term weight reduction. Conservative therapy should include lifestyle modifications such as restricted calorie diet and regular exercise. It should also include behavioral therapy such as self-monitoring of food intake, avoidance of triggers to eating, social and family support, and cognitive restructuring. Supervised programs may be provided by a primary care physician or a registered dietitian
- Gastric bypass and Lap-band procedures are covered
- Revision: will be handled on individual case basis and reviewed by the medical director. Supporting documentation should at least include a clear explanation of the clinical circumstances as to why the procedure failed, the member's BMI, and the results of any diagnostic tests or studies performed