

BlueCross Pennsylvania Independence

<http://www.ibx.com/index.jsp> (Link to site only)

Adult Criteria

- BMI of 40 or greater OR BMI 35-39 in conjunction with 1 or more severe co morbidities (e.g., hypertension, diabetes)
- 18 years of age or older
- Individual has agreed to avoid pregnancy for @ least 1year post-op & not currently pregnant, &/or breast feeding.
- Psychological evaluation
- Consult with surgeon
- Nutritional evaluation
- Individual has a supportive living environment
- Has documentation of a failed history of medical weight loss Adolescent Criteria
- BMI of 50 or greater OR BMI 40-49 with obesity-related co morbidities
- Has attained or nearly attained physiologic maturity as defined by: attaining Tanner State IV (skeletal and sexual maturation is almost complete) or 95% of adult height based on estimates from radiologic bone age.
- Individual has agreed to avoid pregnancy for at least one-year postoperatively, and is not currently pregnant, and/or breast feeding.
- Individual has a supportive living environment
- Psychological evaluation
- Consult with surgeon
- Nutritional evaluation
- Has documentation of a failed history of medical weight loss
- Gastric bypass (Adult and Adolescent) and Lap-band procedure (Adult) are covered.
- Revisions: covered when radiologic documentation of bariatric surgical failure is provided. Revisions to initial surgeries for individuals whose weight loss plateaus when the primary procedure was initially successful in inducing weight loss and the individual had been compliant with the post-operative diet and exercise program. Conversion of the original surgery to a RNY procedure for individuals who have not experienced adequate success (greater than 50% of excess body weight lost) following the primary procedure and the individual has been compliant with the post-operative diet and exercise program