

**Great West Healthcare (2/05)**

<http://www.greatwesthealthcare.com/GreatWestHealthCare/default.aspx> (Link to site only)

- BMI of 40 or greater OR BMI 35-39 with clinically significant co morbid conditions that have failed to respond to adequate non-surgical treatment and include, but are not limited to the following: disabling degenerative joint disease of the lower extremities worsened by obesity, life-threatening cardiopulmonary disease, obesity related pulmonary hypertension, obesity related cardiomyopathy, clinically significant asthma, type II diabetes mellitus, uncontrolled hypertension despite optimal medical management
- 18 years of age or documentation of completion of bone growth
- Diagnosed as morbidly obese for at least 5 years
- Documentation of participation in a weight loss program for 6 months within the last 2 years. Must have chart notes that include documentation of a dietary program for weight loss, which consists of a very-low-calorie diet program and includes monthly weigh-ins and nutritional analysis. At least monthly clinical encounters with a healthcare professional, increased activity/exercise regimen unless contraindicated, behavioral modification program supervised by a qualified professional to reinforce dietary therapy and increased physical activity. Weight loss management history should include pharmacotherapy with physician prescribed weight loss drugs, or documentation of why pharmacotherapy was not tried
- Nutritional evaluation
- No endocrine disorder
- Psychological evaluation
- Commitment to planned post-operative multi-disciplinary follow-up that includes ongoing regular meetings, at least monthly for the first 6 months post-op, with psychological support/consultation, dietitian/nutritionist support/consultation and exercise program
- Gastric bypass surgery is covered; Lap-band surgery is covered with a maximum BMI of less than 50