

TennCare Americhoice (11/07) (see statement at bottom of page)

http://www.americhoice.com/en/members/plan_overview.jsp?xlang=en&xrole=members&xstate=tn&xplan=uhctn&xproduct=TennCare

(Link to site only)

- BMI exceeding 40 for at least 5 years OR BMI greater than 35 for at least 5 years in conjunction with any of the following severe co-morbidities: coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus, medically refractory hypertension (blood pressure >140mmHg systolic and/or 90mmHg diastolic despite optimal medical management), clinically significant obstructive sleep apnea, or severe respiratory insufficiency. NOTE: Clinical evidence does NOT support the use of bariatric surgery to treat gynecological abnormalities, osteoarthritis, gallstones, urinary stress incontinence and other obesity associated diseases that generally do not lead to widespread or life threatening consequences
- Patient completed growth, 18 years old or documentation of completion of bone growth (not to exceed age 65)
- PCP Letter
- Documentation in medical records-participation in a physician-supervised nutrition & exercise program for a cumulative total of 6 months within last year prior to surgery, & at least 3 consecutive month's continuous participation prior to the date of surgery. Member's participation in a physician-supervised nutrition and exercise program must be documented in the medical record by a physician who supervised the member's participation; either PCP or requesting surgeon would qualify. The nutrition and exercise program may be administered as part of the surgical preparative regimen, and participation in the nutrition and exercise program may be supervised by the surgeon who will perform the surgery or by some other physician. Medical records to support prior nutrition and exercise program participation should be available upon request
- Documentation of incapacitation to perform activities of daily living due to obesity (ex: wheelchair, walker use etc.)
- Pre-operative psychological evaluation and clearance is required of members who have a history of severe psychiatric disturbance (schizophrenia, borderline personality disorder, suicidal ideation, severe depression) or who are currently under the care of a psychologist/psychiatrist or who are on psychotropic medications in order to exclude members who are unable to provide informed consent or who are unable to comply with the pre and post operative regimen
- Contraindications – Patients who are not likely to be able to comply with a strict life long dietary regimen, abuse drugs or alcohol, have multi-system organ failure, are actively growing, have liver, kidney, or gastrointestinal disease or engage in regular binge eating are contraindicated for bariatric surgery.