

## Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Bariatric Surgery

The Bariatric surgery benefit provides coverage for the LAP-BAND surgery. The criteria for eligibility is as follows:

- History and/or diagnosis of morbid obesity for a period of two years prior to surgery, and
- Body mass index above 40, or
- Body mass index of 35 or greater and suffer from medical problems associated with obesity such as coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea or hypertension
- Failure of weight-loss attempts including diets, exercise and weight loss programs

In addition to the criteria above, prior authorization for bariatric surgery is subject to meeting all of the pre-surgical requirements listed below:

- Participation in a medically-supervised, non-surgical weight loss program, including nutritional counseling, medication or maintenance therapy, behavior modification, exercise and increased activity for at least 12 months prior to the date of surgery
- Pre-operative nutritional assessment and nutritional counseling about pre- and post-operative nutrition, eating and exercise
- Evidence that attempts at weight loss in the 1-year period prior to surgery have been ineffective
- Psychological clearance of your ability to understand and adhere to the pre- and post-operative program, based on a psychological assessment performed by a licensed professional mental health practitioner
- You have not smoked in the 6 months prior to surgery
- You have not been treated for substance abuse for 1 year prior to surgery and there is no evidence of substance abuse during the 1-year period prior to surgery

Medical records indicating that all criteria has been met must be provided to GlobalHealth.

Note: We only cover surgical procedures when we preauthorize the treatment. We will only cover these procedures and related services and supplies that we determine are medically necessary.