



## **PEIA Bariatric Policy**

Effective July 1, 2020, PEIA has adopted UnitedHealthcare's Bariatric Policy, which will find here: <https://www.uhcprovider.com/content/dam/provider/docs/public/policies/comm-medical-drug/bariatric-surgery.pdf>.

PEIA will use this policy with the following exceptions:

1. Members must be 18 years of age or older to qualify.
2. Laparoscopic adjustable banding will only be approved upon appeal. Documentation must show the consensus that the laparoscopic adjustable banding surgical procedure is the best procedure for the member's needs by two different centers of excellence in WV.
3. Member must be tobacco- free for at least 6 months prior to surgery.
4. Members must have participated in a multidisciplinary surgical preparatory program for a minimum of three months.

For Plan Year 2021 (July 1,2020-June 30, 2021), the in-state network will be limited to the bariatric surgeons credentialed prior to the beginning of this program. Please contact UMR for a list of qualifying physicians.

Any type of bariatric surgery for which a member would qualify must be performed in the state of West Virginia by a center of excellence in bariatric surgery. The centers of excellence must meet the following criteria:

- The center must be an MBS-QIP accredited center.
- Credentialed surgeons affiliated with the center must submit outcomes to the MBS-QIP as the MBS-QIP board mandates.

After the first year of this program, centers of excellence must contact UMR to nominate other qualifying physicians for inclusion in the network.

The centers of excellence in WV are as follows:

**Cabell Huntington Hospital**  
**Charleston Area Medical Center**  
**Mon Health, Preston Memorial Hospital**  
**West Virginia University**

An out- of- state bariatric surgery will only be approved in the following situations:

1. Two different West Virginia centers of excellence agree that the surgery can't be performed in the state of West Virginia and must be referred out of state. Out- of- state surgeries must be performed at a United Health Care Bariatric Center of Excellence.
2. A member permanently resides outside the state of West Virginia and contiguous counties and is considered a non-resident PPB plan member. Out- of- state surgeries must be performed at a United Health Care Bariatric Center of Excellence.

Copayment for bariatric surgery will remain at \$500 but PEIA will offer an incentive for the patient to remain in close follow-up with the bariatric surgeon. Patients who comply with the follow-up schedule will earn reimbursement of a portion of the copayment on the following schedule:

- \$200 of the co-payment will be reimbursed if the member has kept all follow-up appointments during the first 18 months post-surgery.
- An additional \$200 of the co-payment will be reimbursed if the member has kept all follow-up appointments during the first three years and has maintained a weight loss of at least 50% of excess body weight.

Patients will contact UMR at [888 440 7342](tel:8884407342) for reimbursement when they meet the criteria set forth at 18 months and three years.