



PEIA Bariatric Policy

Effective July 1, 2020, PEIA has adopted UnitedHealthcare's Bariatric Policy, found 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.

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
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.

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