

# Bariatric Surgery (for Louisiana Only)

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[Instructions for Use](#)

Content mandated by Louisiana Department of Health

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## Application

This Medical Policy only applies to the state of Louisiana. The coverage rationale contained in this policy represents Louisiana Medicaid coverage policy and is set forth below in accordance with State requirements.

## Coverage Rationale

Louisiana Medicaid covers bariatric surgery, consisting of open or laparoscopic procedures that revise the gastrointestinal anatomy to restrict the size of the stomach, reduce absorption of nutrients, or both.

### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for bariatric surgery, beneficiaries must meet the following criteria:

- Received a preoperative evaluation within the previous 12 months that is conducted by a multidisciplinary team including, at a minimum, a physician, nutritionist or dietician, and a licensed qualified mental health professional. For beneficiaries under the age of 18, the multidisciplinary team must have pediatric expertise. For all beneficiaries, the preoperative evaluation must document all of the following:
  - A determination that previous attempt(s) at weight loss have been unsuccessful and that future attempts, other than bariatric surgery, are not likely to be successful; and
  - A determination that the beneficiary is capable of adhering to the post-surgery diet and follow-up care; and
  - For individuals capable of becoming pregnant, counseling to avoid pregnancy preoperatively and for at least 12 months postoperatively and until weight has stabilized
- Beneficiaries age 18 and older must have:
  - A body mass index equal to or greater than 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, or more than 100 pounds overweight; or
  - A body mass index of greater or equal to 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup> with one or more of the following comorbidities related to obesity:
    - Type 2 diabetes mellitus
    - Cardiovascular disease (e.g., stroke, myocardial infarction, poorly controlled hypertension (systemic blood pressure greater than 140 mm hg or diastolic blood pressure 90 mm hg or greater, despite pharmacotherapy)
    - History of coronary artery disease with a surgical intervention such as coronary artery bypass or percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty
    - History of cardiomyopathy
    - Obstructive sleep apnea confirmed on polysomnography with an AHI or RDI of ≥ 30; or
    - Any other comorbidity related to obesity that is determined by the preoperative evaluation to be improved by weight loss; or

- A body mass index of 30 to 34.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> with type 2 diabetes mellitus if hyperglycemia is inadequately controlled despite optimal medical control by oral or injectable medications
- Beneficiaries age 13 through 17 years old must have:
  - A body mass index equal to or greater than 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or 140% of the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for age and sex, whichever is lower; or
  - A body mass index of 35 to 39.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or 120% of the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for age and sex, whichever is lower, with one or more comorbidities related to obesity:
    - Obstructive sleep apnea confirmed on polysomnography with an AHI > 5
    - Type 2 diabetes mellitus
    - Idiopathic intracranial hypertension
    - Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis
    - Blount's disease
    - Slipped capital femoral epiphysis
    - Gastroesophageal reflux disease
    - Hypertension; or
    - Any other comorbidity related to obesity that is determined by the preoperative evaluation to be improved by weight loss
- Requests for beneficiaries under the age of 13 will be reviewed for medical necessity on a case-by-case basis

## Prior Authorization

Coverage of bariatric surgery requires prior authorization.

## Applicable Codes

The following list(s) of procedure and/or diagnosis codes is provided for reference purposes only and may not be all inclusive. Listing of a code in this policy does not imply that the service described by the code is a covered or non-covered health service. Benefit coverage for health services is determined by federal, state, or contractual requirements and applicable laws that may require coverage for a specific service. The inclusion of a code does not imply any right to reimbursement or guarantee claim payment. Other Policies and Guidelines may apply.

Coding Clarification: Utilize CPT code 43775 to report laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy rather than the unlisted CPT code 43659.

CPT Code	Description
0312T	Vagus nerve blocking therapy (morbid obesity); laparoscopic implantation of neurostimulator electrode array, anterior and posterior vagal trunks adjacent to esophagogastric junction (EGJ), with implantation of pulse generator, includes programming
0313T	Vagus nerve blocking therapy (morbid obesity); laparoscopic revision or replacement of vagal trunk neurostimulator electrode array, including connection to existing pulse generator
0314T	Vagus nerve blocking therapy (morbid obesity); laparoscopic removal of vagal trunk neurostimulator electrode array and pulse generator
0315T	Vagus nerve blocking therapy (morbid obesity); removal of pulse generator
0316T	Vagus nerve blocking therapy (morbid obesity); replacement of pulse generator
0317T	Vagus nerve blocking therapy (morbid obesity); neurostimulator pulse generator electronic analysis, includes reprogramming when performed
43644	Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; with gastric bypass and Roux-en-Y gastroenterostomy (roux limb 150 cm or less)
43645	Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; with gastric bypass and small intestine reconstruction to limit absorption
43647	Laparoscopy, surgical; implantation or replacement of gastric neurostimulator electrodes, antrum
43648	Laparoscopy, surgical; revision or removal of gastric neurostimulator electrodes, antrum

CPT Code	Description
43659	Unlisted laparoscopy procedure, stomach
43770	Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; placement of adjustable gastric restrictive device (e.g., gastric band and subcutaneous port components)
43771	Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; revision of adjustable gastric restrictive device component only
43772	Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; removal of adjustable gastric restrictive device component only
43773	Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; removal and replacement of adjustable gastric restrictive device component only
43774	Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; removal of adjustable gastric restrictive device and subcutaneous port components
43775	Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; longitudinal gastrectomy (i.e., sleeve gastrectomy)
43842	Gastric restrictive procedure, without gastric bypass, for morbid obesity; vertical-banded gastroplasty
43843	Gastric restrictive procedure, without gastric bypass, for morbid obesity; other than vertical-banded gastroplasty
43845	Gastric restrictive procedure with partial gastrectomy, pylorus-preserving duodenoileostomy and ileoileostomy (50 to 100 cm common channel) to limit absorption (biliopancreatic diversion with duodenal switch)
43846	Gastric restrictive procedure, with gastric bypass for morbid obesity; with short limb (150 cm or less) Roux-en-Y gastroenterostomy
43847	Gastric restrictive procedure, with gastric bypass for morbid obesity; with small intestine reconstruction to limit absorption
43848	Revision, open, of gastric restrictive procedure for morbid obesity, other than adjustable gastric restrictive device (separate procedure)
43860	Revision of gastrojejunal anastomosis (gastrojejunostomy) with reconstruction, with or without partial gastrectomy or intestine resection; without vagotomy
43865	Revision of gastrojejunal anastomosis (gastrojejunostomy) with reconstruction, with or without partial gastrectomy or intestine resection; with vagotomy
43881	Implantation or replacement of gastric neurostimulator electrodes, antrum, open
43882	Revision or removal of gastric neurostimulator electrodes, antrum, open
43886	Gastric restrictive procedure, open; revision of subcutaneous port component only
43887	Gastric restrictive procedure, open; removal of subcutaneous port component only
43888	Gastric restrictive procedure, open; removal and replacement of subcutaneous port component only
43999	Unlisted procedure, stomach
64590	Insertion or replacement of peripheral or gastric neurostimulator pulse generator or receiver, direct or inductive coupling
64595	Revision or removal of peripheral or gastric neurostimulator pulse generator or receiver

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## References

Louisiana Department of Health: Professional Services Provider Manual, Section 5.1 – Bariatric Surgery of the Medicaid Services Manual: <https://www.lamedicaid.com/provweb1/providermanuals/manuals/PS/PS.pdf>. Accessed March 2, 2021.

## Policy History/Revision Information

Date	Summary of Changes
04/01/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Created state-specific policy version for content addressed in the <i>Louisiana Department of Health: Professional Services Provider Manual</i></li></ul>

## Instructions for Use

This Medical Policy provides assistance in interpreting UnitedHealthcare standard benefit plans. When deciding coverage, the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage must be referenced as the terms of the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage may differ from the standard benefit plan. In the event of a conflict, the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage govern. Before using this policy, please check the federal, state or contractual requirements for benefit plan coverage. UnitedHealthcare reserves the right to modify its Policies and Guidelines as necessary. This Medical Policy is provided for informational purposes. It does not constitute medical advice.

UnitedHealthcare may also use tools developed by third parties, such as the InterQual® criteria, to assist us in administering health benefits. The UnitedHealthcare Medical Policies are intended to be used in connection with the independent professional medical judgment of a qualified health care provider and do not constitute the practice of medicine or medical advice.