

Bariatric Surgery/Referral to Weight Management Services

Prior Approval

Procedure	Bariatric Surgery/Referral to Weight Management Services
	<p>Referrals to the RUH Specialist Weight Management service which may recommend onward referral for bariatric surgery after treatment in line with NICE guidance.</p> <p>The patient has a BMI of 40 kg/m² or more, or between 35 kg/m² and 40 kg/m² and other significant disease (for example, type 2 diabetes or high blood pressure) that could be improved if they lost weight.</p> <p>All appropriate non-surgical measures have been tried but have failed to achieve or maintain adequate, clinically beneficial weight loss for at least 6 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The patient is generally fit for anaesthesia and surgery. • The patient commits to the need for long-term follow-up and change. <p>All referrals through RUH Specialist Weight Management Service who will refer onwards to surgery where clinically appropriate or discharge patient back to the community setting.</p> <p>Full NICE guidance on the care pathway can be accessed at http://www.nice.org.uk/CG43</p> <p>The GP should be satisfied that all avenues of non-surgical management have been pursued and that the patient has accessed conventional weight loss programmes. The GP should be confident that the patient is psychologically able to tolerate the long term side effects of surgery and understands that surgery is not a cure for weight management but only part of the weight loss process. The GP should be satisfied that the patient will follow dietary advice after the surgery has been completed.</p> <p>NICE have said that surgery should be undertaken only after an assessment of factors that may affect adherence to postoperative care requirements, such as changes to diet. To be considered for surgery patients will need to have demonstrated that they can make appropriate behavioural and lifestyle changes, and adhere to dietary advice. A reduction in weight as part of a planned programme of dietary and lifestyle changes would be one way to demonstrate this.</p>

	<p>Evidence of the steps in the care pathway that the patient has undergone prior to a request for bariatric surgery are required as part of the prior approval process. These steps include participation in a weight management programme under the supervision of a dietician or GP or membership of a weight loss organisation with evidence that the programme has been followed for a minimum of 6 months and evidence of pharmaceutical management (if appropriate).</p> <p>Note: Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this policy may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist, that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy.</p> <p>Individual cases will be reviewed at the PCT Exceptional Funding Panel upon receipt of a completed application form from the patient's GP, Consultant or Clinician. Applications will not be considered from patients personally.</p>
--	--

Approved by (committee)	PEC
Date Approved:	October 2009
Produced by (Title);	Associate Director of Planned Care
Review Date:	August 2012