

## Bariatric (Obesity Surgery) Benefit – FAQ

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### 1. What hospital programs are covered under the bariatric surgical benefit?

- a. Mount Carmel Bariatric Surgery Program
- b. Fresh Start Bariatrics/OhioHealth Surgical Specialists at Riverside Hospital

### 2. How can I learn more about each program?

- a. These programs host information seminars. Contact the program directly for more information.
  - i. Mount Carmel Bariatric Surgery Program  
614-234-2052  
[www.mountcarmelhealth.com/programs-services/bariatric-center](http://www.mountcarmelhealth.com/programs-services/bariatric-center)
  - ii. Fresh Start Bariatrics/ OhioHealth Surgical Specialists  
614-566-3946  
<https://www.ohiohealth.com/services/weight-management/our-programs/surgical-weightmanagement/>

### 3. What is the typical cost to the member?

- a. Annual deductible is applied to the surgery. (See Obesity Surgery section of your Summary Plan Description for more information.)
- b. In addition, each program charges an administrative fee and requires patients to enroll in dietary counseling and to undergo a series of pre-operative **non-medical** activities. Costs for these services will vary by program and are typically not covered by your benefit plan.
  - i. Mount Carmel Bariatric Surgery Program  
Annual deductible + administrative fees, activity and dietary counseling cost
  - ii. Fresh Start Bariatrics/OhioHealth Surgical Specialists at Riverside  
Annual deductible + administrative fees, activity and dietary counseling cost
- c. Each program requires patients to have a number of pre-operative and post-operative office visits, laboratory screenings and other **medically** based examinations. Your benefit plan will typically cover these services; standard deductibles and copays apply.
- d. The cost of any nutrition/ dietician group or individual counseling is typically not covered by your benefit plan.

### 4. What bariatric procedures are covered?

- a. Bariatric surgery for morbid obesity includes but is not limited to gastric bypass, gastric banding and gastric reduction. (See Obesity Surgery section of your Summary Plan Description for more information.)
- b. Liposuction, program fees, exercise program and nutritional classes are not covered. See the Obesity Surgery section of your Summary Plan Description for a full list of procedures that are not covered.

### 5. Are there any specific eligibility, health or past weight loss requirements?

- a. Yes. These include **but are not limited to** at least six consecutive monthly physician visits for weight management, mental health clinician's statement per the Hospital program, and at least 25 years of age. See Obesity Surgery section of your Summary Plan Description for a full list of requirements.

If the above information does not answer all of your questions or concerns about this procedure, please contact the Benefits office at (614) 525-5750.