



PROVIDER POLICIES & PROCEDURES

REVISIONAL BARIATRIC SURGERY

The primary purpose of this document is to assist providers enrolled in the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) with the information needed to support a medical necessity determination for revisional bariatric surgery. By clarifying the information needed for prior authorization of services, HUSKY Health hopes to facilitate timely review of requests so that individuals obtain the medically necessary care they need as quickly as possible.

Bariatric surgical procedures are performed to treat conditions associated with morbid obesity. Two types of surgical procedures are employed. Malabsorptive procedures divert food from the stomach to a lower part of the digestive tract where the normal mixing of digestive fluids and absorption of nutrients cannot occur. Restrictive procedures restrict the size of the stomach and decrease intake. Surgery can combine both types of procedures.

HUSKY Health primarily uses Change Healthcare's InterQual® Criteria when reviewing prior authorization requests for coverage of most bariatric surgical procedures (primary and revisional) including biliopancreatic bypass with duodenal switch (open or laparoscopic), gastric bypass using a Roux-en-Y anastomosis (open or laparoscopic), laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding, and sleeve gastrectomy.

HUSKY Health will use this policy to review requests for revisional bariatric surgical procedures for which InterQual® Criteria are not available.

CLINICAL GUIDELINE

Coverage guidelines for revisional bariatric surgery are made in accordance with the DSS definition of Medical Necessity. The following criteria are guidelines *only*. Coverage determinations are based on an assessment of the individual and their unique clinical needs. If the guidelines conflict with the definition of Medical Necessity, the definition of Medical Necessity shall prevail. The guidelines are as follows:

Revision/Reoperation Bariatric Surgery

Revision bariatric surgery may be considered medically necessary for individuals 18 years of age and older* to correct complications from the primary bariatric procedure including, but not limited to:

- Gastric band erosion, slippage, leakage, herniation, or intractable nausea/vomiting that cannot be corrected with manipulation or adjustment
- Gastroesophageal reflux disease unresponsive to acid suppression for a period of greater than or equal to 8 weeks
- Non-absorption resulting in hypoglycemia or malnutrition
- Outlet or bowel obstruction confirmed by imaging or endoscopy
- Pouch or esophageal dilation/enlargement by imaging or upper endoscopy

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- Staple-line failure
- Stricture unresponsive to dilation
- Ulceration
- Weight loss of 20% or more below ideal body weight.

Revision of a primary bariatric surgical procedure due to inadequate weight loss, or weight recidivism in the absence of a technical failure or major complication, may be considered medically necessary for individuals 18 years of age and older*, when ALL of the following criteria are met:

- A. There is weight loss failure \geq one year following a previous bariatric surgery (unable to achieve or maintain greater than or equal to 50% excess body weight loss);
- B. The individual has a BMI of 35 or greater or if individual is of Asian descent, a BMI of 32.5 or greater;
- C. There is documentation of compliance with the previously prescribed postoperative nutrition and exercise program;
- D. No substance or alcohol use disorder by history or substance and alcohol free for at least one year;
- E. No psychiatric condition by history or documented control of symptoms related to psychiatric condition with psychosocial evaluation and clearance by the individual's behavioral health provider;
- F. No tobacco use by history or tobacco free for at least six weeks prior to surgery;
- G. A dietary consultation has been completed;
- H. The individual verbalizes understanding of the procedure and the importance of compliance with post-procedure diet and other guidance;
- I. The individual has planned follow-up care with their health care team;
- J. The individual is not currently pregnant and has no plans for pregnancy within 18 months of surgery; and
- K. It has been a year or more since the primary bariatric or metabolic surgery.

*Note: For individuals under 18 years of age, medical necessity will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Investigational Procedures

The following interventions/procedures are considered investigational, and therefore not medically necessary, for the treatment of obesity:

- Bariatric artery embolization (BAE)
- Gastric electric stimulation with implantable gastric stimulator
- Intra-gastric balloon
- Laparoscopic greater curvature plication, also known as total gastric vertical plication
- Mini-gastric bypass (MGB)/Laparoscopic mini-gastric bypass (LMGBP)
- Single anastomosis duodenal switch
- Stomach aspiration therapy
- Transoral endoscopic surgery including but not limited to the ROSE procedure, the Overstitch™ procedure, transoral outlet reduction (TORe), and endoscopic revision of a gastrojejunostomy
- Vagus nerve blocking
- Use of gastrointestinal liners

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NOTE: EPSDT Special Provision

Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) is a federal Medicaid requirement that requires the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (CMAP) to cover services, products, or procedures for Medicaid enrollees under 21 years of age where the service or good is medically necessary health care to correct or ameliorate a defect, physical or mental illness, or a condition identified through a screening examination. The applicable definition of medical necessity is set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 17b-259b (2011) [ref. CMAP Provider Bulletin PB 2011-36].

PROCEDURE

Prior authorization for bariatric surgery is required. Requests for coverage are reviewed in accordance with procedures in place for reviewing requests for surgical procedures. Coverage determinations are based upon a review of requested and/or submitted case-specific information.

The following information is needed to review requests for bariatric surgery:

1. Fully completed authorization request via on-line web portal; and
2. Documentation from the requesting physician supporting medical necessity.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This policy for the prior authorization for bariatric surgery for individuals covered under the HUSKY Health Program is effective 11/01/2023.

LIMITATIONS

Not Applicable

CODES

Codes Reviewed Using Policy

Code	Description
43290	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, flexible, transoral; with deployment of intragastric bariatric balloon
43291	Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, flexible, transoral; with removal of intragastric bariatric balloon(s)
43647	Laparoscopy, surgical; implantation or replacement of gastric neurostimulator electrodes, antrum
43648	Laparoscopy, surgical; revision or removal of gastric neurostimulator electrodes, antrum
43659	Unlisted laparoscopy procedure, stomach
43881	Implantation or replacement of gastric neurostimulator electrodes, antrum, open
43999	Unlisted procedure, stomach
44799	Unlisted procedure, small intestine
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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Codes Reviewed Using InterQual Criteria

Code	Description
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
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)
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
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

DEFINITIONS

- HUSKY A:** Connecticut children and their parents or a relative caregiver; and pregnant women may qualify for HUSKY A (also known as Medicaid). Income limits apply.
- HUSKY B:** Uninsured children under the age of 19 in higher income households may be eligible for HUSKY B (also known as the Children's Health Insurance Program) depending on their family income level. Family cost-sharing may apply.
- HUSKY C:** Connecticut residents who are age 65 or older or residents who are ages 18-64 and who are blind, or have another disability, may qualify for Medicaid coverage under HUSKY C (this includes Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities (MED-Connect), if working). Income and asset limits apply.

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4. **HUSKY D:** Connecticut residents who are ages 19-64 without dependent children and who: (1) do not qualify for HUSKY A; (2) do not receive Medicare; and (3) are not pregnant, may qualify for HUSKY D (also known as Medicaid for the Lowest-Income populations).
5. **HUSKY Health Program:** The HUSKY A, HUSKY B, HUSKY C, HUSKY D and HUSKY Limited Benefit programs, collectively.
6. **HUSKY Limited Benefit Program or HUSKY, LBP:** Connecticut's implementation of limited health insurance coverage under Medicaid for individuals with tuberculosis or for family planning purposes and such coverage is substantially less than the full Medicaid coverage.
7. **Medically Necessary or Medical Necessity:** (as defined in Connecticut General Statutes § 17b-259b) Those health services required to prevent, identify, diagnose, treat, rehabilitate or ameliorate an individual's medical condition, including mental illness, or its effects, in order to attain or maintain the individual's achievable health and independent functioning provided such services are: (1) Consistent with generally-accepted standards of medical practice that are defined as standards that are based on (A) credible scientific evidence published in peer-reviewed medical literature that is generally recognized by the relevant medical community, (B) recommendations of a physician-specialty society, (C) the views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas, and (D) any other relevant factors; (2) clinically appropriate in terms of type, frequency, timing, site, extent and duration and considered effective for the individual's illness, injury or disease; (3) not primarily for the convenience of the individual, the individual's health care provider or other health care providers; (4) not more costly than an alternative service or sequence of services at least as likely to produce equivalent therapeutic or diagnostic results as to the diagnosis or treatment of the individual's illness, injury or disease; and (5) based on an assessment of the individual and his or her medical condition.
8. **Prior Authorization:** A process for approving covered services prior to the delivery of the service or initiation of the plan of care based on a determination by CHNCT as to whether the requested service is medically necessary.

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PUBLICATION HISTORY

Status	Date	Action Taken
Original Publication	September 2023	Approved at the July 12, 2023 CHNCT Medical Reviewer meeting. Approved by the CHNCT Clinical Quality Subcommittee on September 18, 2023. Approved by DSS on October 2, 2023.
Updated	September 2024	Clinical Guideline section updated to include pouch or esophageal dilation/enlargement to the list of complications. Criteria updated to align with current standards – BMI of 35 or greater or for individuals of Asian descent, a BMI of 32.5 or greater; and it has been a year or more since the primary bariatric or metabolic surgery. Code section updated to include codes reviewed using InterQual criteria. Changes approved at the September 11, 2024 CHNCT Medical Reviewer meeting. Approved by the CHNCT Clinical Quality Subcommittee on September 16, 2024. Approved by DSS on September 27, 2024.

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