

PROVIDER BULLETIN

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PHYSICIAN BULLETIN BARIATRIC SURGERY COVERAGE

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BARIATRIC SURGERY COVERAGE

The MO HealthNet Division (MHD) is changing policy on bariatric surgery coverage. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 43644, 43645, 43659, 43770, 43775, 43845, 43846, 43847 and 43848 are currently covered for bariatric surgery when performed to treat a concurrent or complicating medical condition for participants with a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 40.

MHD will continue to cover the above listed bariatric surgery codes with the following changes for dates of service on or after September 1, 2015. Participants must meet either number one **or** two of the following criteria, **and** number three must be met:

1. BMI greater than 40 with or without a co-morbid condition, **or**
2. BMI of 35-40 and at least one of the following co-morbid conditions:
 - 249.0-249.91 (Secondary diabetes mellitus);
 - 250.0-250.93 (Diabetes mellitus);
 - 401.0-401.9 (Essential hypertension);
 - 402.0-402.91 (Hypertensive heart disease);
 - 403.0-403.91 (Hypertensive chronic kidney disease);
 - 404.0-404.93 (Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease);
 - 405.0-405.99 (Secondary hypertension).

3. Must be non-smoker/tobacco user or provide evidence of smoking/tobacco-cessation.

All bariatric surgery procedures will continue to require prior authorization. Refer to Section 8 of the physician's manual at http://manuals.momed.com/collections/collection_phy/print.pdf to review MHDs prior authorization policy.

Provider Bulletins are available on the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) (Formerly the Division of Medical Services) Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/bulletins.htm>. Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletin page.

MO HealthNet News: Providers and other interested parties are urged to go to the MHD Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/global/pages/mednewssubscribe.htm> to subscribe to the electronic mailing list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via E-mail.

MO HealthNet Managed Care: The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service
- Services not included in MO HealthNet Managed Care

Questions regarding MO HealthNet Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient's MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping the MO HealthNet card or by calling the Provider Communications Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-751-2896 and using Option One for the red or white card.

**Provider Communications Hotline
573-751-2896**