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## PHYSICIAN BULLETIN

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#### **MORBID OBESITY**

Morbid Obesity, as defined by the American Medical Association (AMA), is a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 40.

#### **TREATMENT OF OBESITY**

The treatment of obesity is covered by MHD when the treatment is an integral and necessary part of a course of treatment for a concurrent or complicating medical condition. Listed below are gastric bypass, gastropasty, and laparoscopy Current Procedure Terminology (CPT) codes covered by MHD for patients with a BMI of greater than 40 and a co-morbid condition(s). These services must be prior authorized. Please refer to section 8 of the physician's manual or click on the link below to review the prior authorization policy at the MHD Web site:

<http://manuals.momed.com/lpBin22/lpext.dll?f=templates&fn=main-j.htm&2.0>

PROCEDURE CODE	DESCRIPTION
43644	Laproscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; with gastric bypass and Roux-en-Y gastroenterostomy (roux limb 150 cm or less)
43645	Laproscopy, surgical, with gastric bypass and small intestine reconstruction to limit absorption
43659	Unlisted laparoscopy procedure, stomach
43842	Gastric restrictive procedure, without gastric bypass, for morbid obesity; vertical-banded gastroplasty
43843	Gastric restrictive procedure, other than vertical-banded gastroplasty
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 small intestine reconstruction to limit absorption
43848	Revision, open, of gastric restrictive procedure for morbid obesity, other than adjustable gastric band (separate procedure)

**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.missouri.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.

**MC+ Managed Care:** The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

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

Questions regarding MC+ Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient's MC+ Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping the red MC+ card or by calling the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-635-8908 and using Option One.

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