

Gastric Bypass Surgery Pilot Program for the Treatment of Morbid Obesity

The Office of Group Benefits is conducting a pilot program to study the effectiveness of gastric bypass surgery as treatment of morbid obesity. The results of the study will be one of the considerations in determining whether this surgery will become a covered benefit.

Contracts for the study have been approved by the Office of Contractual Review. Louisiana State University Health Center in New Orleans and Tenet Hospitals is conducting the pilot program. The staff of LSUHC will evaluate applicants to determine which are most appropriate for the study. **LSUHC will contact all plan members who have expressed an interest in the program.** All surgeries will take place in New Orleans.

The patient list for this study has been sent to LSU and is now closed. Participants will be members in the OGB Preferred Provider Program, Exclusive Provider Program, and Managed Care Option who have a Body Mass Index of 40 or more. The plan members in these three programs are providing the funding of \$1 million that will pay for the 40 procedures that will be performed as part of the project.

As more information becomes available, we will post it on this page.