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Arbenigol Cymru (PGIAC)
Welsh Health Specialised
Services Committee (WHSSC)

Specialised Services Commissioning Policy

CP29: Bariatric Surgery

Document Author:	Specialist Planner, Cardiothoracic
Executive Lead:	Director of Planning
Approved by:	Management Group
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0.5	14 December 2009	Amendment to referral pathway information Section 5.1	0.94
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Policy Statement

<p>Background</p>	<p>Bariatric surgery is surgical treatment to promote health improvement in people who are obese. Surgical procedures for those with obesity aim to reduce weight and maintain any loss through restriction of intake and/or malabsorption of food. In addition to modifying eating habits, patients are encouraged to commit to daily exercise as part of a wider change in lifestyle to maximise and sustain the benefits of surgery.</p>
<p>Summary of access criteria</p>	<p>Referrals for bariatric surgery must satisfy the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The individual is aged 18 years or over; b. The individual has a BMI of 40 or greater; c. Morbid/severe obesity has been present for at least five years. d. The individual has received, and complied with, an intensive weight management programme at a multi-disciplinary weight management clinic (level 2/3 of the All Wales Obesity Pathway) for at least 24 months duration, but has been unable to achieve and maintain a healthy weight; e. The individual is approved for surgery by the bariatric MDT at the Welsh Institute of Metabolic and Obesity Surgery, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.
<p>Responsibilities</p>	<p>Referrers should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the patient that this treatment is not routinely funded outside the criteria in this policy; and • Refer via the agreed pathway. <p>Clinician considering providing bariatric surgery should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss all alternative treatment with the patient; • Advise the patient of any side effects and risks of the potential treatment; • Inform the patient that treatment is not routinely funded outside of the criteria in the policy; and • Confirm that there is contractual agreement with WHSSC for the treatment. <p>In all other circumstances submit an IPFR.</p>

Table of Contents

1. Aim.....	5
1. Introduction	5
1.2 Relationship with Other Policies and Service Specifications. .	5
2. Scope.....	6
2.1 Definition	6
2.2 Codes	6
3. Access Criteria	8
3.1 Clinical Indications	8
3.2 Criteria for Treatment.....	8
3.3 Referral Pathway	8
3.4 Exclusions	9
3.5 Exceptions	10
3.6 Responsibilities.....	10
4. Putting Things Right: Raising a Concern	11
5. Equality Impact and Assessment	12
Annex (i).....	13
Annex (ii) Checklist	14

1. Aim

1. Introduction

The document has been developed as the policy for commissioning Bariatric Surgery for Welsh patients. The policy applies to all seven Health Boards in Wales.

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- Clearly set out the circumstances under which patients will be able to access the Bariatric Surgery services specified;
- Clarify the referral process;
- Indicate which organisations are able to provide a service for Welsh patients; and
- Define the criteria that patients must meet in order to be referred.

1.2 Relationship with Other Policies and Service Specifications.

This document should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- All Wales Policy: Making Decisions on Individual Patient Funding Requests (IPFR)
- Specialised Services Policy: Body Contouring
- Specialised Services Policy: Breast Surgery

2. Scope

2.1 Definition

Bariatric surgery is surgical treatment to promote health improvement in people who are obese. Surgical procedures for those with obesity aim to reduce weight and maintain any loss through restriction of intake and/or malabsorption of food. In addition to modifying eating habits, patients are encouraged to commit to daily exercise as part of a wider change in lifestyle to maximise and sustain the benefits of surgery.

Several different surgical procedures have been used for people with morbid obesity. This policy covers the principal types of surgical procedure that are in current use: gastric bypass, sleeve gastrectomy and gastric banding.

2.2 Codes

The following ICD-10 and OPCS 4 codes define obesity and bariatric surgery.

ICD-10 Codes

Code Category	Code	Description
ICD10	E66	Obesity

OPCS 4 Codes

Code Category	Code	Description
OPCS4	G282	Partial gastrectomy and anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
OPCS4	G283	Partial gastrectomy and anastomosis of stomach to jejunum NEC
OPCS4	G288	Other specified partial excision of stomach
OPCS4	G289	Unspecified partial excision of stomach
OPCS4	G301	Gastroplasty NEC
OPCS4	G302	Partitioning of stomach NEC
OPCS4	G303	Partitioning of stomach using band
OPCS4	G304	Partitioning of stomach using staples
OPCS4	G308	Other specified plastic operations on stomach
OPCS4	G309	Unspecified plastic operations on

		stomach
OPCS4	G321	Bypass of stomach by anastomosis of stomach to transposed jejunum
OPCS4	G328	Other specified connection of stomach to transposed jejunum
OPCS4	G329	Unspecified connection of stomach to transposed jejunum
OPCS4	G611	Bypass of jejunum by anastomosis of jejunum to jejunum
OPCS4	G612	Bypass of jejunum by anastomosis of jejunum to ileum
OPCS4	G613	Bypass of jejunum by anastomosis of jejunum to colon
OPCS4	G618	Other specified bypass of jejunum
OPCS4	G619	Unspecified bypass of jejunum

3. Access Criteria

3.1 Clinical Indications

This policy is for the treatment of obesity and obesity related morbidity. The most commonly used measure for classifying overweight and obesity is the Body Mass Index (BMI). This is an index of weight-for-height that is defined as the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in metres (kg/m²).

NICE (clinical guideline 43, Obesity) has recommended that in adults, overweight is defined as a BMI of 25 to 29.9 and obesity as a BMI of 30 or over. Severe or morbid obesity is defined as a BMI of 40 or over.

NICE also recommends that in assessing risk of developing obesity related diseases, and determining appropriateness of treatment, waist circumference and the presence and degree of severity of comorbidities, are also considered.

3.2 Criteria for Treatment

Individuals must satisfy all elements of the access criteria set out below:

- a. The individual is aged 18 years or over;
- b. The individual has a BMI of 40 or greater;
- c. Morbid/severe obesity has been present for at least five years;
- d. The individual has received, and complied with, an intensive weight management programme at a multi-disciplinary weight management clinic (level 2/3 of the All Wales Obesity Pathway) for at least 24 months duration, but has been unable to achieve and maintain a healthy weight; and
- e. The individual is approved for surgery by the bariatric MDT at the Welsh Institute of Metabolic and Obesity Surgery, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

3.3 Referral Pathway

3.3.1 All Wales Obesity Pathway

LHBs are currently working on plans to implement the All Wales Obesity Pathway. There is a particular gap in relation to tier 3 services, which, when in place, will develop close links to the tier 4 bariatric surgery service and will gate-keep referrals to tier 4.

In the interim, referrals to the bariatric MDT at WIMOS will be made according to the referral pathway designated by each LHB for its resident population.

3.3.2 Gatekeeping referrals

The bariatric surgery MDT at WIMOS is the gatekeeper for access to bariatric surgery in Wales. All referrals for bariatric surgery must be made to WIMOS for assessment against the access criteria set out in this commissioning policy. Only referrals approved by the gatekeeper will be funded for surgery.

Referrals must be made on the bariatric surgery referral form and must include all the required information and supporting evidence. It is the responsibility of referrers to ensure referral information is complete.

The bariatric MDT at WIMOS will:

- Assess the referral against access criteria a) to d);
- Ensure there are no specific clinical or psychological contraindications to bariatric surgery;
- Ensure the anaesthetic and other peri-operative risks have been assessed appropriately and minimised;
- Ensure the patient has engaged in appropriate support or education groups/schemes to understand the benefits and risks of the intended surgical procedure;
- Assess the evidence and be satisfied that the patient is likely to engage in the follow up programme that is required after bariatric surgery to ensure the best clinical outcome is obtained and then maintained.

3.3.3 Providers

Patients meeting the criteria and agreed as suitable for surgery by the bariatric MDT at WIMOS are referred for surgery to either Morriston Hospital, ABMUHB (patients resident in South Wales) or to Salford Royal NHS Trust (patients resident in North Wales).

3.4 Exclusions

Referral under this policy does not cover the following:

- Referrals from the NHS for the revision of treatments originally performed outside the NHS will not be funded. This includes gastric band fills, out patient follow up and revision surgery. Referrers should refer the patient to the practitioner who carried out the original treatment;

- Referrals for patients who have undergone emergency corrective treatment in the NHS following treatment originally performed outside the NHS, but who go on and request further NHS funded revision, will be assessed against the eligibility criteria;
- Plastic surgery, which may be required as a result of weight loss following bariatric surgery. (Clinicians wishing to refer patients for plastic surgery post bariatric surgery will be required to make a referral to plastic surgery. The patient will have to meet the criteria for access to plastic surgery in order for the surgery to be funded); and
- Individuals under 18 years of age.

3.5 Exceptions

If the patient does not meet the criteria for treatment, but the referring clinician believes that there are exceptional grounds for treatment, an Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) can be made to WHSS under the All Wales Policy for Making Decisions on Individual Patient Funding Requests ([IPFR](#)).

If the patient wishes to be referred to a provider out of the agreed pathway, an IPFR should be submitted.

Guidance on the IPFR process is available at www.whssc.wales.nhs.uk

3.6 Responsibilities

Referrers should:

- Inform the patient that this treatment is not routinely funded outside the criteria in this policy; and
- Refer via the agreed pathway.

Clinician considering treatment should:

- Discuss all the alternative treatment with the patient;
- Advise the patient of any side effect and risks of the potential treatment;
- Inform the patient that treatment is not routinely funded outside of the criteria in the policy; and
- Confirm that there is contractual agreement with WHSSC for the treatment.

In all other circumstances submit an IPFR.

4. Putting Things Right: Raising a Concern

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that decisions made under this policy are robust and appropriate for the patient group, it is acknowledged that there may be occasions when the patient or their representative are not happy with decisions made or the treatment provided. The patient or their representative should be guided by the clinician, or the member of NHS staff with whom the concern is raised, to the appropriate arrangements for management of their concern:

- When a patient or their representative is unhappy with the decision that the patient does not meet the criteria for treatment further information can be provided demonstrating exceptionality. The request will then be considered by the All Wales IPFR Panel.
- If the patient or their representative is not happy with the decision of the All Wales IPFR Panel the patient and/or their representative has a right to ask for this decision to be reviewed. The grounds for the review, which are detailed in the All Wales Policy: Making Decisions on Individual Patient Funding Requests (IPFR), must be clearly stated. The review should be undertaken, by the patient's Local Health Board;
- When a patient or their representative is unhappy with the care provided during the treatment or the clinical decision to withdraw treatment provided under this policy, the patient and/or their representative should be guided to the LHB for NHS Putting Things Right. For services provided outside NHS Wales the patient or their representative should be guided to the NHS Trust Concerns Procedure, with a copy of the concern being sent to WHSSC.

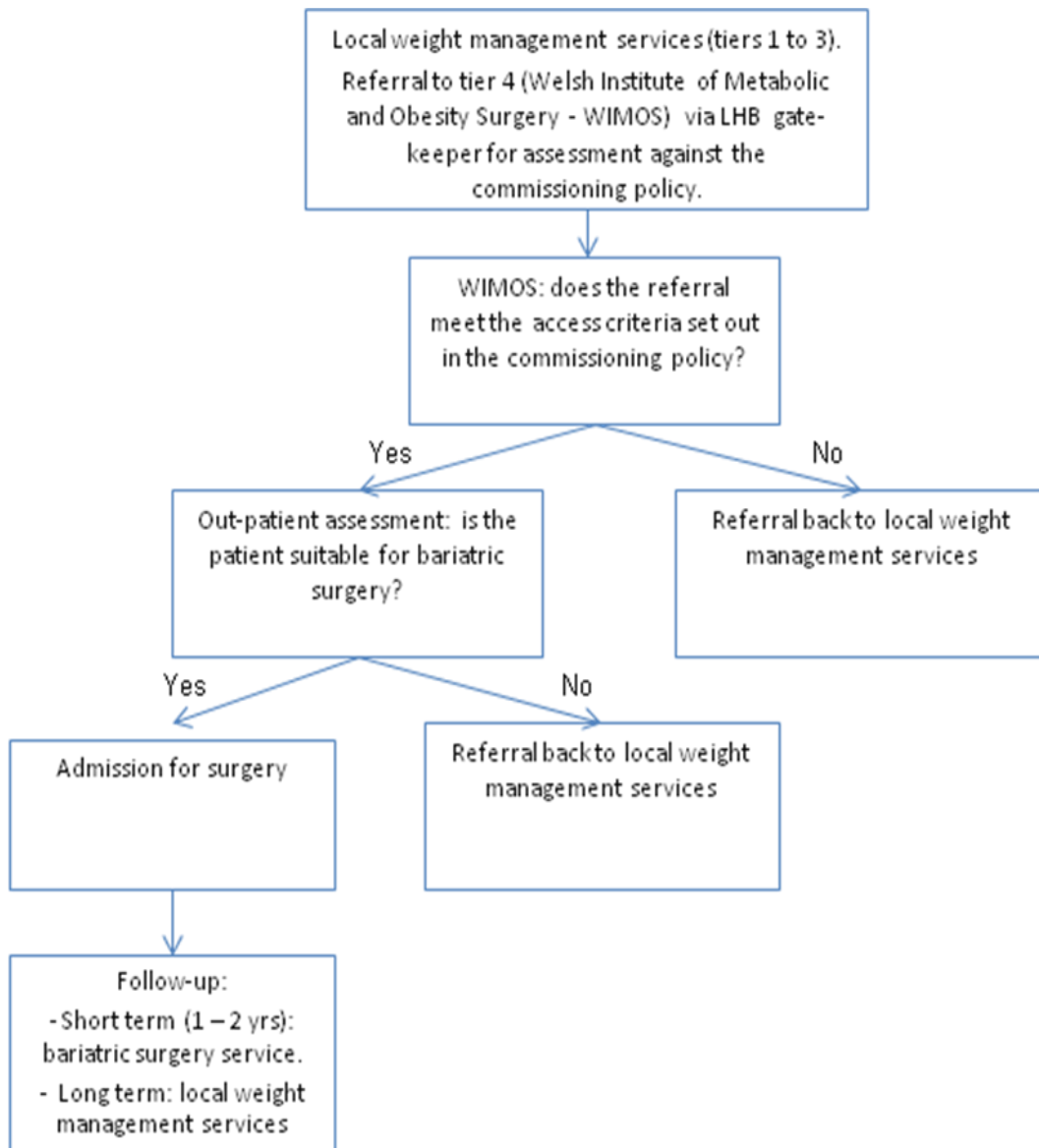
5. Equality Impact and Assessment

The Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) process has been developed to help promote fair and equal treatment in the delivery of health services. It aims to enable Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee to identify and eliminate detrimental treatment caused by the adverse impact of health service policies upon groups and individuals for reasons of race, gender re-assignment, disability, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion and belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity and language (Welsh).

The EQIA has been undertaken. This assessment noted the policy has an explicit age criterion that excludes individuals under 18 years from eligibility. This basis for this exclusion is clinical appropriateness of the intervention in this particular group.

Annex (i)

Referral Pathway



Annex (ii) Checklist

CP29 Bariatric Surgery

The following checklist should be completed and retained as evidence of policy compliance by the receiving centre. It is expected that this evidence will be provided at the point of invoicing by the receiving centre.

- i) Where the patient meets the criteria **AND** the procedure is included in the contract **AND** the referral is received by an agreed centre, the form should be completed and retained by the receiving centre for audit purposes.
- ii) The patient meets the criteria **AND** is received at an agreed centre, but the procedure is not included in the contract. The checklist must be completed and submitted to WHSSC for prior approval to treatment.
- iii) The patient meets the criteria but wishes to be referred to a non contracted provider. An Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Form must be completed and submitted to WHSSC for consideration.
- iv) The patient does not meet criteria, but there is evidence of exceptionality. An Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) Form must be completed and submitted to WHSSC for consideration for treatment.

To be completed by the referring gatekeeper or treating clinician

PRIOR APPROVAL

Please tick the appropriate boxes:

Patient NHS No:			
Patient is Welsh Resident	Post Code		
Patient is English Resident	GP Code:		
		Yes	No
Patient meets following access criteria for treatment:			
a. The individual is aged 18 years or over			
b. The individual has a BMI of 40 or greater			
c. Morbid/severe obesity has been present for at least five years			
d. The individual has received, and complied with, an intensive weight management programme at a multi-disciplinary weight management clinic (level 2/3 of the All Wales Obesity Pathway) for at least 24 months duration, but has been unable to achieve and maintain a healthy weight			
e. The individual is approved for surgery by the bariatric MDT at the Welsh Institute of Metabolic and Obesity Surgery, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.			
<i>An Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) must be completed and submitted to WHSSC for approval prior to treatment. The form must clearly demonstrate why funding should be provided as an exception. The form can be found at http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/docopen.cfm?orgid=898&id=181455</i>			
Patient does not meet access criteria but is exceptional			
<i>An Individual Patient Funding Request (IPFR) must be completed and submitted to WHSSC for approval prior to treatment. The form must clearly demonstrate why funding should be provided as an exception. The form can be found at http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/docopen.cfm?orgid=898&id=181455</i>			

Name: _____ **Designation:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

	Name (printed):	Signature:	Date:	Yes	No
Authorised by TRM Gatekeeper					
Authorised by Patient Care					

Team					
Patient Care Team/IPFR TRM Reference number:					