



Dear Primary Care Provider:

Your patient has expressed an interest in Weight Loss Surgery. They have contacted us and/or attended an Information Seminar regarding options available, risks/benefits and dietary/lifestyle changes necessary to achieve long term success.

As you may know, the reasons for Morbid Obesity are multiple and complex. Efforts such as dieting and exercise programs are associated with a 95% failure rate. Weight loss surgery, when compared to other interventions, has provided the longest period of sustained weight loss with reduction and remission of co-morbidities. To be considered for the surgery the patient must be at least 100 pounds over ideal body weight and have a BMI of 40. Occasionally insurances will grant approval based on a BMI of 35 with significant co-morbidities.

The surgical options available at the nationally recognized Bariatric Center at Georgetown include Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding and Laparoscopic Sleeve Gastrectomy, both of which are entirely restrictive procedures and the laparoscopic Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, which is both a restrictive as well as a malabsorptive procedure. We are designated as a **Center of Excellence** by the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery and are the only Center of Excellence in Central Kentucky offering Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding. Our minimally invasive surgeons from Bluegrass Bariatric Surgical Associates are G. Derek Weiss, M.D., F.A.C.S. and John S. Oldham, Jr., M.D.

Dr. Weiss and Dr. Oldham are advanced laparoscopic surgeons with extensive experience and training who have focused their interest on minimally invasive bariatric surgery. We are very pleased to be able to offer this level of advanced minimally invasive care for the first time in the Central Kentucky area.

They joined the bariatric surgical program at Georgetown Community Hospital in July of 2003 and together perform approximately 500 weight loss procedures yearly, with no conversions to an open procedure. They now perform an average of 45 surgeries per month, with an average operative time for the laparoscopic Roux-en-Y of 75 minutes and for Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding of 45 minutes. Please note that we offer minimally invasive options for all bariatric patients, including those who have been told they must have their surgery open because of a very large BMI or because of previous abdominal surgery and scarring.

For your patient to proceed in the process we need a letter of support from you. This letter needs to include the height, weight and BMI of the patient. It needs to state how long the patient has been at least obese/morbidly obese, dieting attempts the patient has tried and all associated co-morbidities to include medications and pertinent lab data. (See reverse side of this page for example.)

If I can be of any further assistance in this process, or any other questions that you may have in reference to the Bariatric Services at our facility please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jo Wiggins, ARNP
Nurse Practitioner
888-868-0008