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**MEDICAID INFORMATION RELEASE #MA06-38**

**To:** Physicians, Osteopathic Physicians, Hospitals and Anesthesiologists

**From:** Leslie M. Clement, Administrator  
Division of Medicaid

**Subject:** Change in Medicaid Policy for Bariatric Surgeries

**Effective immediately, Medicaid will only cover bariatric surgeries that are performed in a Medicare approved Bariatric Surgery Center (BSC) or Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence (BSCE).** A list of facilities approved by Medicare for bariatric surgery is available online from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) website at:  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareApprovedFacilitie/>.

Prior Authorization is required for all bariatric surgeries as outlined in Information Release **IR #MA04-57, Bariatric Surgery, Panniculectomy/ Abdominoplasty**, available online at:  
<http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/DesktopModules/ArticlesSortable/ArticlesSrtView.aspx?tabID=0&ItemID=1346&mid=10309>. **Prior authorization requests should be directed to Qualis Health at 800 783-9207.**

Idaho Medicaid rules concerning bariatric surgery are found in sections 431-434 of Idaho Code **IDAPA 16.03.09, Medicaid Basic Plan Benefits**, available online at:  
<http://adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/rules/idapa16/0309.pdf>. As a reminder, Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code 43770 - *Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; placement of adjustable gastric bands* - is not covered by Medicaid.

This information is in addendum to the following sections of the provider handbooks:

- Section 2 – General Billing Information, **Section 2.3.2 – Medicaid Prior Authorization**
- Section 3 – Physician/Osteopathic Guidelines, **Section 3.2.5.1- Bariatric Surgery**
- Section 3 – Hospital Guidelines, **Section 3.6.2.3- Obesity**

If you have questions concerning this IR, please contact Frutoso Gonzalez at (208) 364-1833.

LMC/af