

Aetna Institutes of Quality® Bariatric Surgery Facilities Program Requirements for 2009/2010 Designations

A facility that meets certain measures of clinical quality, cost efficiency and access for bariatric services may be selected to participate in the Aetna Institutes of Quality Bariatric Surgery Network.

To be considered for the network, a facility must first complete the pre-screening survey in Aetna's Request for Information (RFI). If a facility meets all mandatory program requirements listed in the survey, it completes the remainder of the RFI and submits the full survey response to Aetna via email. We then evaluate the answers provided and consider both Aetna internal data and other publicly available data.

Once selected for the network, the facility is listed in DocFind®, our online public directory of Aetna providers. Designation is valid for two years, contingent on ongoing compliance with Institutes of Quality Bariatric Surgery program requirements. All facilities will resubmit data periodically.

I. Mandatory program requirements

For a facility to be eligible for consideration, it must meet all program requirements listed below. If the facility does not meet these requirements, it will not be considered for potential designation.

Volume:

1. Facility must have performed at least 125 bariatric surgical cases in the most recent 12 calendar months. Aetna's case volume requirement aligns with the requirements that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, The Leapfrog Group, and the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery have established for their designation programs.¹

Participating status of facility and bariatric surgeons:

2. Facility must be credentialed by Aetna and participate in Aetna's provider network.
3. All surgeons performing bariatric surgery at the Facility participate in Aetna's provider network for all products.
4. All of the Facility's contracted anesthesiologists participate in Aetna's provider network.

Clinical outcome:

5. In the most recent 12 calendar months, the facility's mortality rate within 30 days of bariatric surgery must be less than or equal to 1.0%.
6. In the most recent 12 calendar months, the facility's re-operation rate within 30 days of surgery for gastric banding is less than or equal to 2.5%.
7. In the most recent 12 calendar months, the facility's re-operation rate within 30 days of surgery for all other open bariatric procedures (open and lap) is less than or equal to 5.0%.

¹For case volume requirement, see: [CMS Press Release, February 21, 2006](#); [NCD for Bariatric Surgery for Treatment of Morbid Obesity \(100.1\)](#); [The Leapfrog Hospital Survey, What's New in the 2008 Survey \(Version 5.0\)](#); [ASMBS Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence Requirements](#).

Status of ambulatory surgery center:

8. If the facility is an ambulatory surgery center, it must be accredited by at least one of the following: Association for Ambulatory Health Care, American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities, American Osteopathic Association, Joint Commission or the state in which the center is located.
9. If the facility is an ambulatory surgery center, it must have a written plan and a transfer agreement for transferring a patient with complications to an inpatient facility within a reasonable distance.

II. Additional evaluation criteria

If a facility meets all mandatory program requirements and submits a completed RFI, Aetna evaluates the facility's responses on its RFI survey submission. The evaluation criteria are listed below. In addition, Aetna internal data may be evaluated and may affect the decision to designate a facility.

Category	Additional Evaluation Criteria
Program duration	At a minimum, the program has been performing bariatric surgery continuously for the most recent 12 calendar months.
Industry accreditation	Facility has Full Approval as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ American College of Surgeons (ACS) Bariatric Surgery Center Network (BSCN): Level 1 or Level Outpatient, and/or▪ American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence® (BSCOE).
Medical services	If the inpatient facility is not accredited by ACS or ASMBS, it must have all of the following medical services present: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Anesthesiology▪ Cardiology▪ Pulmonology▪ Radiology▪ Infectious disease▪ Psychology/Behavior modification▪ Intensive care unit▪ Specialized equipment▪ Nutrition/Counseling/Education
Quality improvement program	Facility has a bariatric surgery quality improvement program that includes a data collection system and/or personnel to collect, analyze and maintain program-related data. The data are regularly collected, analyzed and utilized for quality performance improvement and program management.
Reporting of outcomes data	Facility reports to one of the following registries: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ ACS National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP)▪ ACS Bariatric Surgery Center Network (BSCN)▪ ASMBS Bariatric Outcomes Longitudinal Database™ (BOLD™)
Leapfrog	Facility submits The Leapfrog Hospital Survey.

Category	Additional Evaluation Criteria
Bariatric surgeon	Surgeon is an Aetna-participating provider.
Bariatric surgeon	Surgeon is certified by American Board of Surgery or American Osteopathic Board of Surgery.
Bariatric surgeon	Surgeon is certified by American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS).
Bariatric surgeon	The number of bariatric surgery procedures personally performed at the applicant facility, as well as the total number of bariatric surgery procedures personally performed within the most recent calendar year.
Procedure-specific data	Data by procedure type: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of cases • Average length of stay • Readmission rates at 30 days • Mortality rate at 30 days
Readmission rate within 30 days	In the most recent 12 calendar months, all-cause admission rate within 30 days of initial bariatric surgery is less than 10%.
Re-operation rate within 30 days	In the most recent 12 calendar months, the facility's re-operation rate within 30 days of surgery is less than or equal to: Thresholds: 2.5% lap gastric banding 5.0% open bariatric procedures (open and lap)
Complications data	Data by type of complication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of patients • Number of patients requiring a return to surgery • Number of patients resulting in readmission • Mortality number
Patient follow-up	At least 75% of surgical cases are followed one year post-operatively.
Patient management plan	Program provides an organized program of aftercare and follow-up for patients for at least 12 months.
Patient safety	2008 rating for the Leapfrog Safe Practices Score (SPS). The Leapfrog SPS summarizes a hospital's adherence to 13 safety practices endorsed by the National Quality Forum, such as maintaining a culture of safety, hand hygiene, nursing workforce and prevention of infections.

Category	Additional Evaluation Criteria
Patient safety	2008 rating for implementation of Leapfrog’s medication error prevention (CPOE) standard. CPOE systems are electronic prescribing systems that intercept errors when they most commonly occur — at the time medications are ordered.
Overall network access	Facility provides access to Aetna members in geographic areas with limited member access.

References

Birkmeyer, N., et al. *Characteristics of hospitals performing bariatric surgery*. JAMA. 006;295(3)282-284.

Clark, G. Wesley. *Regarding Surgical Mortality Statistics*. San Diego, CA. 2003.

Courcoulas, A. et al. *The relationship of surgeon and hospital volume to outcome after gastric bypass surgery in Pennsylvania: A 3-year summary*. Surgery. 2003; 134(4):613-623.

Encinosa W., et al. *Healthcare utilization and outcomes after bariatric surgery*. Medical Care. 2006; 44(8):706-712.

Flum D, Dellinger E. *Impact of gastric bypass operation on survival: A population-based analysis*. Journal of the American College of Surgeons. 2004; 199(4):543-551.

Goldfeder, Lara; Ren, Christine; Gill, James. *Fatal Complications of Bariatric Surgery*. Obesity Surgery. Volume 16, Number 8, August 2006, pp. 1050-1056(7)

Liu J, et al. *Characterizing the performance and outcomes of obesity surgery in California*. The American Surgeon. 2003; 69(10):823-828.

Nguyen N., et al. *The relationship between hospital volume and outcome in bariatric surgery at academic medical centers*. Annals of Surgery. 2004;240(4):586-594.

Open Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass for the Morbidly Obese in the Era of Laparoscopy. American Journal of Surgery. December 2002.

Outcomes after laparoscopic Roux-en-Y gastric bypass for morbid obesity. Annals of Surgery. October 2000.

Pooled data from published series 1981-2000. *Medical and Surgical Options in the Treatment of Severe Obesity*. American Journal of Surgery. 2002.

Pooled data from the International Bariatric Surgery Registry, 2001.

Relationship between provider volume and postoperative complications for bariatric procedures in New York State. Journal of American College of Surgeons. May 2006; 202(5):753-61.

Results of 281 consecutive total laparoscopic Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypasses to treat morbid obesity. Annals of Surgery. May 2002

Saunders JK, et al. *30-day readmission rates at a high volume bariatric surgery center: laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding, laparoscopic gastric bypass, and vertical banded gastroplasty-Roux-en-Y gastric bypass.* Obesity Surgery. 2007 Sep;17(9):1171-7.

Santry HD, Gillen, Lauderdale D. *Trends in bariatric surgical procedures.* JAMA. 2005;294(15):1909-1917.

Weller W, Hannan E. *Relationship between provider volume and postoperative complications for bariatric procedures in New York State.* Journal of the American College of Surgeons. 2006; 202(5):753-761.

Zingmond D, McGory M. Ko C. *Hospitalization before and after gastric bypass surgery.* JAMA. 2005; 294(15): p. 1918-1924.