



Information for Asante Employees Considering Bariatric Surgery

Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery is a procedure to treat the chronic disease of obesity in combination with medical management (nutrition, exercise and certain medications) to achieve durable weight loss and promote remission of several co-morbidities.

Bariatric surgery is not currently covered under the Asante Health Plan; however, employees and dependents* are eligible for the Asante Employee Bariatric Benefit. This benefit is a package of services provided at a significantly reduced out-of-pocket cost. Asante partners with Oregon Surgical Specialists (OSS) and the Southern Oregon Bariatric Center (SOBC) to offer this program.

The employees' out-of-pocket cost for the bariatric benefit package ranges from \$4,750 - \$5,400, depending on the procedure performed.

As an employee, you also have the option to pay half of the out-of-pocket cost through automatic payments (through ACH or MyChart) over a 12-month period.

To qualify for the bariatric benefit, employees and/or their dependent(s)* must first and foremost meet the clinical guidelines for bariatric surgery. This is determined through your physician along with the clinic team at SOBC and OSS. Additionally, the employee or dependent* must be at least 18 years old and covered by the Asante Health Plan.

See below for answers to some frequently asked questions (FAQs):

What services does the package include?

The package of services includes the following:

- Pre-operative and post-operative (up to 90 days after surgery) office visits with providers at SOBC/OSS and associated lab tests.
- Hospital stay for the procedure and associated surgeon/anesthesiologist/pathology fees.
- Pre-operative fitness evaluation through Baxter Fitness.

After 90 days, the employee/dependent will continue the ongoing management of their chronic disease of obesity, their associated medical conditions, and any new medical conditions that might be related to their history of bariatric surgery (e.g., vitamin deficiencies, GERD, or weight regain) with their PCP or pay out of pocket for services with SOBC.

If I have other insurance that provides coverage for this procedure, am I still eligible for the bariatric benefit? Situations involving other insurance will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Is my spouse or dependent family member eligible for discount? Yes, if they are enrolled in one of the Asante Health Plans, do not have any other health insurance, and meet all other clinical and age requirements, they could receive the same benefit package as the employee.

**Dependents: Eligible dependents that are enrolled in the employee's Asante health plan at time of surgery.*



- For dependents who are 25 years of age, surgery must be completed prior to their 26th birthday. If surgery is postponed by SOBC or ARMMC due to unforeseen circumstances, extensions may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Can I have the surgery at any facility I choose, or must I have the surgery at Asante Rogue Regional Medical Center (ARRMC)? To be eligible for the program, the surgery must be performed at ARMMC through the Southern Oregon Bariatric Center.

Can I pay the entire cost up front? You are required to pay at least 50% of the cost prior to surgery but may choose to pay more. You also have the option to pay the other half (50%) of the out-of-pocket costs through automatic payments (through ACH or MyChart) over a 12-month period.

Will I be responsible for other costs outside of the package? During your screening visit at the bariatric center, your pathway to surgery will be discussed along with other potential out-of-pocket expenses for you. SOBC requires a \$800 program fee which is collected separately. The required psychological evaluation is also a separate fee. Follow-up care beyond 90 days, including office visits, lab tests, and other services, are not included and may or may not be covered through your insurance.

What if I have a complication from surgery that requires additional hospitalization or procedures? Although rare, with any surgery there is a possibility of a complication or the need for additional hospitalization or subsequent procedures. Expenses incurred for such treatment are not covered by the Asante Health Plan and could create additional financial exposure for you.

How do I learn more about the Southern Oregon Bariatric Center Program?

Visit the SOBC website at www.sobariatrics.com/.

I'm ready to take the next step. Where do I start?

The first step is to attend the free SOBC educational seminar about bariatric surgery. Visit the SOBC website at www.sobariatrics.com/ to register.

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