



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 Clinically Severe Obesity are multiple and complex. Efforts such as dieting and exercise programs are associated with at 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 Weight Loss Surgery of Wyoming of Riverton Memorial Hospital include the only FDA approved adjustable silicone band (the Lap-Band[®]), which is an entirely restrictive procedure and the laparoscopic Roux-en-Y gastric bypass, which is both a restrictive as well as a malabsorptive procedure. We are among only few providers in the region to offer the Lap-Band[®]. In addition, we are the only weight loss surgery program in central Wyoming and are unique in our hospital based team approach for surgical candidate selection and postoperative follow-up. Our *exclusively* minimally invasive program includes the advanced laparoscopic skills of general surgeon Dennis M. Lewis, MD, FACS.

We offer state of the art instrumentation for the procedure and personalized follow-up planning enhanced by a nurse practitioner and her staff. We also plan local support groups and a support group program in the communities of our out- of-town patients as well as support through a bariatric web site.

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 100 pounds overweight, dieting attempts the patient has tried and all associated co-morbidities to included medications and pertinent lab data. Your participation and documentation is critical to this process.

The patient needs to provide a very strong case to their insurance provider of the medical necessity of this surgery. Patients need to be assisted in compiling their medical records that reflect their efforts at conservative weight loss. The picture you provide in your letter should reflect the medical problems this patient is experiencing due to obesity and your support of their effort to improve their health and well-being.

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

Sincerely,

Debbie McClure, MS, FNP-C
Nurse Practitioner/Program Director