

YOUR PATHWAY TO SURGERY

Congratulations on your decision to become healthier through Bariatric Surgery. The following steps are required to get your surgery approved, scheduled and safely performed. It is your responsibility to complete each step.

Step 1: Attend a Community Lecture

Call 979-821-7556; 979-821-7329 or toll-free 800-914-0745 to pre-register for a Community Lecture at the St. Joseph Regional Rehabilitation Center. Attendance is mandatory and you must be punctual. You cannot attend the pre-operative education classes until you have attended this lecture as the information presented in class builds on what you learn in the lecture.

Step 2: Verify Insurance Coverage

Contact your insurance company to verify coverage for Bariatric surgery. Most insurance companies will require a pre-certification number before pre-operative testing. If your insurance does not cover Bariatric surgery, St. Joseph offers a cash pay discount. Your surgeon's office manager can tell you about financing options.

Step 3: Make an Appointment for an Initial Consultation with your Surgeon

Notify the St. Joseph Surgical Weight Loss Center of your surgeon choice and complete the **Patient Information Form**. Bring your completed **Patient Information Form** with you to your appointment.

Make an appointment with your surgeon and submit this paperwork, along with a copy of the front and back of your insurance card, to his office. If you have had medical testing, such as a sleep study, X-rays, or a psychological evaluation, done within the last 6 months, bring copies of those reports as well. You should also bring any Letter of Medical Necessity from your primary care physician (if required by your insurance plan).

Step 4: Complete your Pre-operative Testing

After your initial appointment with your Surgeon, he will order pre-operative tests based upon your medical history. You will receive instructions on where to go for these tests. The providers will expect payment at the time of service.

Step 5: Attend Pre-operative Education Class

Once testing is completed, you will then attend pre-operative education class at the St. Joseph Rehabilitation Center. Class is required before surgery. Consult the schedule and call 979-821-7329 to pre-register. In this class, you will learn how to use your surgery as a tool to regain health. You will be required to pass a written test to document your understanding of this important decision in your life.

Step 6: Pre-register at the St. Joseph Regional Health Center

Your surgeon will set your surgery date. You will then pre-register at the St. Joseph Regional Health Center. You will be expected to take care of any balances at the hospital, the hospital fee and deposit, the surgeons' fees and the anesthesiology fees at this time.

Step 7: Keep Post-operative Surgeon Appointments/Attend Support Group Meetings.

After surgery, it is important that you keep your post-operative appointments with your Surgeon and attend monthly Support Group Meetings.

I understand that it is my responsibility to complete each step above. I acknowledge that Bariatric surgery is considered elective surgery and that I am financially responsible for payment of all pre-op testing, surgeons' fees, hospital fees and deposit, whether my insurance will cover these costs or not. I further understand that estimated fees are provided for my benefit, but that I will be billed for the actual costs related to my surgery.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

Witness

Signature

Date