



March 2019

Provider Notice

CountyCare is providing notice to all participating network providers of a network change related to Weight Loss (Bariatric) Surgical Services. Effective **March 13, 2019** all CountyCare members being considered eligible candidates for weight loss surgery should be referred for weight loss surgical services to John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County Health.

A CountyCare member may be referred for weight loss surgery due to:

- A BMI of 40 OR a BMI of 35 in the presence of relevant clinical co-morbidities
- Health problems because of their weight
- Lack of success with diet and exercise

We are implementing this change based on the concentration of expertise and related resources centered on weight loss surgery at Stroger Hospital. We believe that these services, delivered in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary fashion will afford quality care advantages for our members. The skilled and experienced specialists at Stroger Hospital will provide excellent care to your patient during this life-changing experience.

This change will not apply to CountyCare members who began bariatric treatment with another provider prior to **March 13, 2019**. Please work with our excellent clinical care team in utilization management should you have any questions or specific patient issues.

Weight loss surgery prior authorizations can be submitted via:

- Provider Portal - <http://www.countycare.com/providers/portal>
- Phone - 312-864-8200 711 TTD/TTY Option 4
- Fax - the **IP Medical Prior Authorization Form** to 1-800-856-9434

To discuss scheduling or if you have other questions, please contact Florence Molinaro at 312-864-LIFE.