



Qualified Health Plans offered in North Carolina by CareSource North Carolina Co., d/b/a CareSource

<b>MEDICAL POLICY STATEMENT</b>	
<b>North Carolina Marketplace</b>	
<b>Policy Name &amp; Number</b>	<b>Date Effective</b>
Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery: Revision-NC-MP-MM-1407	10/01/2023
<b>Policy Type</b>	
<b>MEDICAL</b>	

Medical Policy Statement prepared by CareSource and its affiliates are derived from literature based on and supported by clinical guidelines, nationally recognized utilization and technology assessment guidelines, other medical management industry standards, and published MCO clinical policy guidelines. Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and without which the patient can be expected to suffer prolonged, increased or new morbidity, impairment of function, dysfunction of a body organ or part, or significant pain and discomfort. These services meet the standards of good medical practice in the local area, are the lowest cost alternative, and are not provided mainly for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services defined in any Evidence of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other policies and procedures.

Medical Policy Statements prepared by CareSource and its affiliates do not ensure an authorization or payment of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced in the Medical Policy Statement. If there is a conflict between the Medical Policy Statement and the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage), then the plan contract (i.e., Evidence of Coverage) will be the controlling document used to make the determination. According to the rules of Mental Health Parity Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of a behavioral health disorder will not be subject to any limitations that are less favorable than the limitations that apply to medical conditions as covered under this policy.

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## A. Subject

### **Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery: Revision**

## B. Background

Revision procedures are typically done because of complications from or a failure of the initial surgical procedure. Complications may include surgical or anatomical complications, as well as nutritional or metabolic complications. A failure of the initial bariatric surgery may result in an inadequate weight loss or a weight regain.

## C. Definitions

- **Revision** - Maintaining the same anatomy as the primary surgery.
- **Inadequate Weight Loss** - Less than 50% expected weight loss and/or weight remains greater than 40% over ideal body weight (normal body weight BMI parameter range 18.5-24.9).

## D. Policy

- I. CareSource considers surgical revision of a bariatric surgery procedure a covered service when medically necessary.
- II. An inadequate weight loss due only to non-compliance with dietary, behavioral, or exercise recommendations is not a medically necessary indication for a revision procedure, including stretching of a stomach pouch due to overeating.
- III. A revision procedure is medically necessary when **ALL** the following criteria are met and documented in the medical record:
  - A. Surgery/procedure selected is a proven procedure and not considered experimental/investigational; and
  - B. A technical failure or major complication has occurred from the initial procedure that cannot be managed medically. Technical failure and major complication examples include the following:
    1. Persistent pain and recurrent bleeding occur;
    2. Chronic stenosis remains after multiple dilations;
    3. Faulty component or malfunction that cannot be repaired;
    4. Candy cane Roux syndrome;
    5. Complications that cannot be corrected with band manipulation; adjustments or replacement including band slippage and port leakage; or
    6. Obstruction confirmed by imaging studies.
- NOTE: Stretching of a stomach pouch formed by a previous bariatric surgery due to overeating, is not considered a complication and therefore is not considered to be a medically necessary procedure.
- IV. In the absence of a technical failure or major complication, individuals with weight loss failure  $\geq$  two years following the initial bariatric surgery procedure must meet medical necessity requirements in the medical policy that applies to an initial bariatric surgery.

**E. Conditions of Coverage**

N/A

**F. Related Policies/Rules**

Medical Necessity Determinations  
Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery  
Experimental and Investigational Item or Service

**G. Review/Revision History**

	<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>Date Issued</b>	02/01/2023	New Policy
<b>Date Revised</b>	06/21/2023	No changes; Updated references. Approved at Committee.
<b>Date Effective</b>	10/01/2023	
<b>Date Archived</b>		

**H. References**

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2. Ellsmere, J. (2020, May). Late complications of bariatric surgical operations. Accessed June 1, 2023 from [www.uptodate.com](http://www.uptodate.com).
3. Federal Drug Administration. (2020, April 27). Weight-Loss and Weight-Management Devices. Retrieved Accessed June 1, 2023 from [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov).
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