

## **2015 Bariatric Surgery Pilot Program** **SHBP Member Application Process**

October 23, 2014

### **Pilot Program Description**

The Georgia Legislature has established a two-year pilot program (House Bill 511) to provide benefit coverage by the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) for certain bariatric surgical procedures for the treatment and management of obesity and related conditions for those SHBP members selected for inclusion in this pilot program. The bariatric surgical procedures covered in the pilot program are: gastric band, laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy and laparoscopic Rouen-Y gastric bypass. The SHBP Bariatric Surgery Pilot Program established by House Bill 511 includes qualifying criteria; however, it is not limited to the criteria listed in House Bill 511. House Bill 511 also provides for a review panel, provision of an evaluation report of this pilot program and subsequent reviews.

The pilot program is limited to 75 (non-Medicare Advantage) members for the 2015 Plan Year. SHBP members must agree to the program requirements and complete the application. A member is defined as an employee, spouse or dependent, 18 years and older, covered as primary by SHBP for two or more years. Members will be chosen through a random selection process held by the medical claims administrator that the member has enrolled in for Plan Year 2015.

### **What Interested Members Must Do**

Review the program description and requirements. The SHBP 2015 Bariatric Surgery Pilot Program Application and program description are available on the DCH website (<http://dch.ga.gov/shbp>).

The member agrees he/she meets the following eligibility requirements as outlined in Section A of the 2015 Bariatric Surgery Pilot Program Application:

- He/she is primary under the SHBP
- Is 18 years and older
- Does not use tobacco
- Has been covered under SHBP as primary for two years immediately prior to submission of the application. He/she intends to continue coverage under SHBP for two years following the approved surgical procedure date
- He/she has not had previous bariatric surgery

Member must have their physician complete Section B certifying the member meets the clinical requirements of the application. Section B may be completed and signed by the member's physician before January 1, 2015.

Members must complete an online 2015 health assessment available beginning and no earlier than January 2, 2015. Healthways will administer the health assessment referred to as "Well-Being Assessment" for both Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia and UnitedHealthcare, and will be available at [www.BeWellSHBP.com](http://www.BeWellSHBP.com). Kaiser Permanente will administer their health assessment referred to as "Total Health Assessment" and will be available at [www.my.kp.org/shbp](http://www.my.kp.org/shbp).

The member agrees he/she will satisfy the following participation requirements also outlined in Section A of the application if member is selected to participate in this pilot program:

- The member consents to provide personal and medical information as requested by the SHBP or their medical claims administrator;
- The member agrees to enroll in a 24-month post-operative SHBP case management program which requires regular calls with nurse case managers;
- The member intends to continue coverage under SHBP for two years following the approved surgical procedure date;
- The member will comply with any and all requests by the SHBP for post-surgical medical and productivity information, and such agreement will survive his/her Plan participation in the SHBP for two years following the approved surgical procedure date.

The completed 2015 Bariatric Surgery Pilot Program Application form should be submitted to the member’s medical claim administrator no earlier than January 2, 2015, and should be postmarked no later than February 2, 2015. **Applications received or postmarked before January 2, 2015 or after February 2, 2015 will not be accepted or held.**

**Applications determined to be incomplete by your medical claims administrator will not be in the random drawing selection process.**

Each complete application placed in the random selection process will be assigned and recorded the selection number as each is drawn.

Only the first drawn slots allotted to each medical claims administrator (based on each administrator’s 2015 enrollment) will be offered acceptance into this Bariatric Surgery Pilot Program. These 75 randomly selected eligible applicants will be notified of their inclusion in the Bariatric Surgery Pilot Program via mail by their medical claims administrator after March 2, 2015. The remaining eligible and complete applications will be held by each administrator and assigned to their 2015 wait-list.

<b>If you are selected, you will be contacted by your medical claims administrator and advised of the program process and requirements.</b>	
1. Medical claims administrator’s clinical case management staff will assist the member’s chosen bariatric surgeon in completing the prior authorization and medical necessity requirements	<b>Note:</b> If a member rescinds request to proceed at any point in the authorization process, or is denied authorization for surgery, a letter will be sent confirming withdrawal or denial. Then the next randomly selected member is notified via mail that they are now eligible.
2. When program requirements and medical necessity are met, surgical authorization is provided to the member	
3. Case manager works with bariatric surgeon scheduling the surgery	
4. Case manager engages with the member and bariatric surgeon throughout the process to support goals	