

Dear Patient,

Thank you for considering UT Southwestern for your surgical treatment of severe obesity. Our team of health care providers is committed to your long-term health. We will guide you through the process as you make the commitment to this lifestyle change.

To help us with your care, we need you to provide the following:

- Medical records, including your previous diet plans, at initial visit.
- Health insurance information, including a referral from your primary care provider, if required by your insurance carrier.

Our process includes an initial visit with the surgeon to explain the program, review your medical condition, and discuss your surgical options. UT Southwestern surgeons perform both open and laparoscopic bypass surgeries, as well as the laparoscopic gastric band placement.

We will obtain a “predetermination” from your insurance company. Based on the insurance information, medical history, and diet plans you provide us, we will correspond with your insurance company to determine what their reimbursement for this procedure may be. This step is often lengthy, but your familiarity with the guidelines set by your insurance provider may help to expedite the process. Individual insurance providers vary in their coverage of this surgery. If your insurance company denies reimbursement for this procedure, we are available to discuss other payment options.

Once your insurance provider has approved this procedure, your preoperative visit and surgery date will be scheduled. Depending on which procedure is performed, hospitalization will be from one to four days. Your success will be monitored through frequent clinic visits. We also offer a monthly Support Group meeting.

Please fill out and return the “Patient Weight Loss and Medical History Questionnaire” and include a photocopy of the front and back of your insurance card. Upon receipt of these items, you will be contacted to schedule your initial appointment.

As with other treatment, choosing a surgical option for the treatment of morbid obesity is a commitment requiring lifestyle changes. Your food intake, exercise, and medications will require permanent modifications. The health care team at UT Southwestern is committed to your success.

If you have questions or require additional information, please call us at (214) 648-3067.

Sincerely,

Lois Hill, RN