



Coverage of Bariatric Surgery in the State Employee Health Plan and Medicaid

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History

- Prior to Plan Year 2008, all treatment for obesity was excluded from coverage under the SEHP
- Medicaid reimbursed for weight-loss medications but excluded coverage for bariatric surgery
- The HCC considered coverage for bariatric surgery in 2006
- Consistent with KHPA initiatives in the area of prevention and wellness, HCC decided to cover preventive and non-invasive obesity treatments for 2008 under SEHP

HCC Review of Bariatric Surgery in 2006

■ Findings:

- Preventive, non-invasive treatment not covered at that time
- Relatively high incidence of complications and even death
- Morbidity and mortality vary considerably with experience of surgeon and hospital
- No Centers of Excellence in Kansas
- Long-term cost-effectiveness not yet demonstrated

HCC Review of Bariatric Surgery in 2006

- KHPA Staff Recommendations for SEHP:
 - Educate consumers on available options for promoting wellness and addressing weight problems
 - Review SEHP plans for 2008 to examine possible expansion in preventive benefits
 - Review HealthQuest program to consider initiatives in the following areas:
 - Physician-supervised weight management
 - Behavior modification
 - Health eating
 - Exercise
 - SEHP and Medicaid Staff review of bariatric surgery exclusion
 - Retain exclusion of bariatric surgery

SEHP Changes in 2008

- Provide coverage for non-surgical treatment of obesity
- Expanded coverage for consultation with a dietitian
 - Coverage not limited to diabetics
- Added coverage for prescription weight loss medications

HealthQuest for 2008

- Healthy Lifestyle Programs Includes:
 - Healthy eating and weight management information
 - Health coaches to provide ongoing support
 - Teleclass: Healthy Weight
 - Online class and tools

Medicaid

- Continues to provide reimbursement for prescription weight-loss medications with prior authorization
- Provides for reimbursement for medical nutrition therapy for children under KanBeHealthy

New Developments

- Kansas now has two Centers of Excellence for bariatric surgery as designated by the American Society for Bariatric Surgery
- CMS has 3 certified centers in Kansas to provide bariatric services to Medicare beneficiaries
 - Limited geographic area
- Continued increase in insurance coverage and prevalence of bariatric surgery
- Explosion in research
 - Emerging evidence of the positive health impact for the extremely obese
 - Continued advancement in procedures and knowledge of quality indicators

Additional Considerations

- Estimated cost of coverage for SEHP: \$13 million dollars
 - Estimate depends on pre-certification requirements
- Additional costs of coverage in Medicaid