

# 2020 BARIATRIC SURGERY MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT CODING GUIDE

Effective January 1, 2020



## CPT® Coding and CY 2020 Medicare National Averages for Bariatric Surgery for Physicians, Hospital Outpatient and Ambulatory Surgery Centers

| PROCEDURE   | CPT® CODE <sup>1</sup> /<br>HCPCS<br>CODE <sup>2</sup> | CODE DESCRIPTION   | PHYSICIAN <sup>3</sup>                      | HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT <sup>4</sup>                              |                      | ASC <sup>4</sup>     |
|---|--|--|---|---|----------------------|----------------------|
|   |  |  | MEDICARE<br>NATL AVG<br>FACILITY<br>SETTING | APC AND APC<br>DESCRIPTION                                    | MEDICARE<br>NATL AVG | MEDICARE<br>NATL AVG |
| Gastric Bypass,<br>Laparoscopic   | 43644  | Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; with gastric bypass and Roux-en-Y gastroenterostomy (roux limb 150 cm or less)                         | \$1,829                                     | Inpatient only, not reimbursed for hospital outpatient or ASC |                      |                      |
|   | 43645  | Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; with gastric bypass and small intestine reconstruction to limit absorption                             | \$1,947                                     | Inpatient only, not reimbursed for hospital outpatient or ASC |                      |                      |
| Gastric Band,<br>Laparoscopic <sup>5</sup>  | 43770  | Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; placement of adjustable gastric restrictive device (eg, gastric band and subcutaneous port components) | \$1,184                                     | 5362, Level 2<br>Laparoscopy                                  | \$8,413              | N/A for<br>ASC       |
| Gastric Band,<br>Revision and<br>Removal<br>of Band,<br>Laparoscopic <sup>6</sup> | 43771  | Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; revision of adjustable gastric restrictive device component only                                       | \$1,345                                     | Inpatient only, not reimbursed for hospital outpatient or ASC |                      |                      |
|   | 43772  | Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; removal of adjustable gastric restrictive device component only  | \$1,001                                     | 5303, Level<br>3 Upper GI<br>Procedures                       | \$2,999              | N/A for<br>ASC       |
|   | 43773  | Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; removal and replacement of adjustable gastric restrictive device component only                        | \$1,345                                     | 5361, Level 1<br>Laparoscopy                                  | \$4,834              | N/A for<br>ASC       |
|   | 43774  | Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; removal of adjustable gastric restrictive device and subcutaneous port components                      | \$1,011                                     | 5303, Level<br>3 Upper GI<br>Procedures                       | \$2,999              | N/A for<br>ASC       |
| Gastric Band,<br>Revision and<br>Removal of<br>Port                               | 43886  | Gastric restrictive procedure, open; revision of subcutaneous port component only  | \$382                                       | 5055, Level 5<br>Skin Procedures                              | \$2,977              | \$1,504              |
|   | 43887  | Gastric restrictive procedure, open; removal of subcutaneous port component only   | \$344                                       | 5054, Level 4<br>Skin Procedures                              | \$1,623              | \$820                |
|   | 43888  | Gastric restrictive procedure, open; removal and replacement of subcutaneous port component only   | \$486                                       | 5055, Level 5<br>Skin Procedures                              | \$2,977              | \$1,504              |
| Adjustment<br>of Band<br>Diameter <sup>7</sup>                                    | S2083  | Adjustment of gastric band diameter via subcutaneous port by injection or aspiration of saline   | N/A   |   |                      |                      |
| Sleeve<br>Gastrectomy,<br>Laparoscopic  | 43775  | Laparoscopy, surgical, gastric restrictive procedure; longitudinal gastrectomy (ie, sleeve gastrectomy)  | \$1,175                                     | Inpatient only, not reimbursed for hospital outpatient or ASC |                      |                      |
| Vertical-<br>Banded<br>Gastroplasty,<br>Open                                      | 43842  | Gastric restrictive procedure, without gastric bypass, for morbid obesity; vertical-banded gastroplasty  | Not covered by Medicare                     |   |                      |                      |

| PROCEDURE   | CPT® CODE¹/<br>HCPCS<br>CODE² | CODE DESCRIPTION   | PHYSICIAN³                                      | HOSPITAL OUTPATIENT⁴  |                      | ASC⁴                 |
|---|-------------------------------|--|---|---|----------------------|----------------------|
|   |                               |  | MEDICARE<br>NATL AVG<br><br>FACILITY<br>SETTING | APC AND APC<br>DESCRIPTION                                    | MEDICARE<br>NATL AVG | MEDICARE<br>NATL AVG |
| Other Gastric Restrictive Procedure, Open           | 43843                         | Gastric restrictive procedure, without gastric bypass, for morbid obesity; other than vertical-banded gastroplasty   | \$1,350   | Inpatient only, not reimbursed for hospital outpatient or ASC |                      |                      |
| Biliopancreatic Diversion (without Duodenal Switch) | 43632                         | Gastrectomy, partial, distal; with gastrojejunostomy   | \$2,142   | Inpatient only, not reimbursed for hospital outpatient or ASC |                      |                      |
| Biliopancreatic Diversion with Duodenal Switch      | 43845                         | Gastric restrictive procedure with partial gastrectomy, pylorus-preserving duodenoileostomy and ileoileostomy (50 to 100 cm common channel) to limit absorption (biliopancreatic diversion with duodenal switch) | \$2,050   | Inpatient only, not reimbursed for hospital outpatient or ASC |                      |                      |
| Gastric Bypass, Open                                | 43846                         | Gastric restrictive procedure, with gastric bypass for morbid obesity; with short limb (150 cm or less) Roux-en-Y gastroenterostomy  | \$1,710   | Inpatient only, not reimbursed for hospital outpatient or ASC |                      |                      |
|   | 43847                         | Gastric restrictive procedure; with gastric bypass for morbid obesity; with small intestine reconstruction to limit absorption   | \$1,902   | Inpatient only, not reimbursed for hospital outpatient or ASC |                      |                      |
| Revision, Gastric Restrictive Procedure⁸            | 43848                         | Revision, open, of gastric restrictive procedure for morbid obesity, other than adjustable gastric restrictive device (separate procedure)   | \$2,039   | Inpatient only, not reimbursed for hospital outpatient or ASC |                      |                      |
| Other Revision⁹                                     | 43850                         | Revision of gastroduodenal anastomosis (gastroduodenostomy) with reconstruction; without vagotomy  | \$1,716   | Inpatient only, not reimbursed for hospital outpatient or ASC |                      |                      |
|   | 43855                         | Revision of gastroduodenal anastomosis (gastroduodenostomy) with reconstruction; with vagotomy   | \$1,781   | Inpatient only, not reimbursed for hospital outpatient or ASC |                      |                      |
|   | 43860                         | Revision of gastrojejunal anastomosis (gastrojejunostomy) with reconstruction, with or without partial gastrectomy or intestine resection; without vagotomy  | \$1,722   | Inpatient only, not reimbursed for hospital outpatient or ASC |                      |                      |
|   | 43865                         | Revision of gastrojejunal anastomosis (gastrojejunostomy) with reconstruction, with or without partial gastrectomy or intestine resection; with vagotomy   | \$1,802   | Inpatient only, not reimbursed for hospital outpatient or ASC |                      |                      |
| Robotic Assistance⁷                                 | S2900                         | Surgical techniques requiring use of robotic surgical system   | N/A   |   |                      |                      |

## References

- 1 2020 CPT® Professional Edition. American Medical Association.
- 2 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System. <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/HCPSCReleaseCodeSets/Alpha-Numeric-HCPCS.html>
- 3 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Medicare Program; CY 2020 Revisions to Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment Policies; Medicare Shared Savings Program Requirements; Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Program Requirements for Eligible Professionals; Establishment of an Ambulance Data Collection System; Updates to the Quality Payment Program; Medicare Enrollment of Opioid Treatment Programs and Enhancements to Provider Enrollment Regulations Concerning Improper Prescribing and Patient Harm; and Amendments to Physician Self-Referral Law Advisory Opinion Regulations Final Rule; and Coding and Payment for Evaluation and Management, Observation and Provision of Self-Administered Esketamine Interim Final Rule; Final Rule, Federal Register (84 Fed. Reg. No. 221 (62568-63563) 42 CFR Parts 403, 409, 410, 411, 414, 415, 416, 418, 424, 425, 489 and 498. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/11/15/2019-24086/medicare-program-cy-2020-revisions-to-payment-policies-under-the-physician-fee-schedule-and-other>. Published November 15, 2019.
- 4 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Medicare Program: Changes to Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems and Quality Reporting Programs; Revisions of Organ Procurement Organizations Conditions of Coverage; Prior Authorization Process and Requirements for Certain Covered Outpatient Department Services; Potential Changes to the Laboratory Date of Service Policy; Changes to Grandfathered Children's Hospitals-Within-Hospitals; Notice of Closure of Two Teaching Hospitals and Opportunity To Apply for Available Slots. Final Rule, Federal Register (84 Fed. Reg. No. 218 61142 - 61492) 42 CFR Parts 405, 410, 412, 414, 416, 419, and 486. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-11-12/pdf/2019-24138.pdf>. Published November 12, 2019. Addendum B, AA. See also Correction Notice CMS-1717-CN; <https://federalregister.gov/d/2019-28364>. Published January 3, 2020. Addendum B, AA.
- 5 Code 43770 is for placement of both components. Placement of individual components is reported differently by physicians and hospital. Physicians may report 43770 with reduced services modifier -52; codes submitted with modifier -52 generally receive reduced payment after individual review of physician documentation required by the payer. Hospitals may report 43770 with hospital modifier -74, discontinued procedure after administration of anesthesia, which is also appended to indicate partially reduced procedures performed under anesthesia; codes submitted with modifier -74 continue to pay at 100% of the rate. <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c04.pdf>
- 6 For removal and replacement of both gastric band and subcutaneous port, assign code 43659, unlisted laparoscopy procedure, stomach. For physicians, code 43659 is contractor priced. For hospital outpatient, code 43659 maps to APC 5361, Level 1 Laparoscopy, Medicare national average \$4,834. Procedures which use unlisted codes such as 43659 are not permitted by Medicare in ASCs. CPT Assistant April 2006. Surgery: Digestive System -- Bariatric Surgery
- 7 HCPCS II S-codes cannot be reported to Medicare. They are used only by non-Medicare payers, which cover and price them according to their own requirements.
- 8 Code 43848 is used for open revision or reversal of gastric restrictive procedures, eg, converting banding to gastric bypass, restapling a dehiscence of a staple restrictive line. CPT Assistant May 1998. Bariatric Surgery: Gastric Restrictive Procedures.
- 9 Although not specifically defined for bariatric procedures, some payers may accept these codes for revisions of gastric bypass procedures.

# DIAGNOSIS CODING FOR BARIATRIC SURGERY<sup>1</sup>

ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes are used by physicians, hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers and other providers to indicate the reason for the encounter.

Bariatric procedures are performed for patients who are obese. While the patients typically have associated comorbidities that should also be coded and reported, obesity remains the primary reason for the procedure. Payers may also require that a specific BMI be reported to meet coverage criteria. ICD-10-CM also provides codes specifically for complications of bariatric procedures.

The codes displayed are representative of diagnoses and procedures that are associated with bariatric surgery. Other diagnosis and procedure codes may also be available. Providers should check with their coding advisors and payers for additional or alternate codes.

| CONDITION     | ICD-10-CM DIAGNOSIS CODES | CODE DESCRIPTION                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------|--|
| Obesity       | E66.01                    | Morbid (severe) obesity due to excess calories   |
|               | E66.09                    | Other obesity due to excess calories             |
|               | E66.8                     | Other obesity                                    |
| BMI           | Z68.35                    | Body mass index (BMI) 35.0-35.9, adult           |
|               | Z68.36                    | Body mass index (BMI) 36.0-36.9, adult           |
|               | Z68.37                    | Body mass index (BMI) 37.0-37.9, adult           |
|               | Z68.38                    | Body mass index (BMI) 38.0-38.9, adult           |
|               | Z68.39                    | Body mass index (BMI) 39.0-39.9, adult           |
|               | Z68.41                    | Body mass index (BMI) 40.0-44.9, adult           |
|               | Z68.42                    | Body mass index (BMI) 45.0-49.9, adult           |
|               | Z68.43                    | Body mass index (BMI) 50-59.9, adult             |
|               | Z68.44                    | Body mass index (BMI) 60.0-69.9, adult           |
|               | Z68.45                    | Body mass index (BMI) 70 or greater, adult       |
| Complications | K95.01                    | Infection due to gastric band procedure          |
|               | K95.09                    | Other complications of gastric band procedure    |
|               | K95.81                    | Infection due to other bariatric procedure       |
|               | K95.89                    | Other complications of other bariatric procedure |

## References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd10cm.htm>

# HOSPITAL INPATIENT PROCEDURE CODING FOR BARIATRIC SURGERY



ICD-10-PCS procedure codes<sup>1</sup> are used by hospitals to report surgeries and procedures performed in the inpatient setting.

All ICD-10-PCS codes have seven digits, each digit representing a specific character associated with procedures. Code assignment in ICD-10-PCS is a process of “constructing” the code by selecting values from a code table for each of the seven standard characters. The first three characters identify the code table that is used to complete the remaining four characters.

## Assigning ICD-10-PCS Procedure Codes

| CHARACTER                            | DESCRIPTION  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>1: Section</b>                    | For bariatric procedures, the appropriate section is 0-Medical and Surgical.   |
| <b>2: Body System</b>                | Because bariatric procedures involve the stomach and intestines, the body system D-Gastrointestinal System.  |
| <b>3: Root Operation<sup>2</sup></b> | Root operations are assigned according to the objective of the procedure, following standard definitions. Depending on the specific procedure, one of three different root operations are most commonly assigned for bariatric procedures. Note that because the procedure's objective is the defining factor in assigning the root operation, some procedures with different clinical nomenclature may use the same ICD-10-PCS code. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1-Bypass: Altering the root of passage of the contents of a tubular body part, e.g., Roux-en-Y gastric bypass</li><li>• V-Restriction: Partially closing an orifice or the lumen of a tubular body part, eg, gastric banding</li><li>• B-Excision: Cutting out or off, without replacement, a portion of a body part, eg, sleeve gastrectomy</li></ul> |
| <b>4: Body Part</b>                  | On their given code tables, specific body part values are available for stomach, duodenum, and ileum.  |
| <b>5: Approach</b>                   | Bariatric procedures performed via laparotomy use 0-Open. Procedures performed by laparoscopy use 4-Percutaneous Endoscopic.   |
| <b>6: Device</b>                     | The device character is not used for surgical instruments that accomplish the procedure but rather for devices that remain in the patient's body after the procedure is completed, ie, implanted devices. <sup>2</sup> Gastric banding procedures use C-Extraluminal Device because the band encircles the lumen of the stomach from the outside. For other bariatric procedures, Z-No Device is most common.  |
| <b>7: Qualifier</b>                  | Qualifiers add further information to the code. For therapeutic procedures, the most common qualifier is Z-No Qualifier. For bypass procedures, the qualifier identifies the body part being bypassed to. For example, re-routing the digestive tract from the stomach directly to the ileum uses qualifier B-Ileum. <sup>2</sup>  |

## Example: Gastric Bypass

| SECTION 0 Medical And Surgical   |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| BODY SYSTEM D Gastrointestinal System  |   |  |  |
| OPERATION 1 Bypass: Altering the route of passage of the contents of a tubular body part |   |  |  |
| BODY PART  | APPROACH  | DEVICE   | QUALIFIER  |
| 1 Esophagus, Upper<br>2 Esophagus, Middle<br>3 Esophagus, Lower<br>5 Esophagus           | 0 Open<br>4 Percutaneous Endoscopic<br>8 Via Natural or Artificial Opening Endoscopic | 7 Autologous Tissue Substitute<br>J Synthetic Substitute<br>K Nonautologous Tissue Substitute<br>Z No Device | 4 Cutaneous<br>6 Stomach<br>9 Duodenum<br>A Jejunum<br>B Ileum   |
| 1 Esophagus, Upper<br>2 Esophagus, Middle<br>3 Esophagus, Lower<br>5 Esophagus           | 3 Percutaneous  | J Synthetic Substitute   | 4 Cutaneous  |
| 6 Stomach<br>9 Duodenum  | 0 Open<br>4 Percutaneous Endoscopic<br>8 Via Natural or Artificial Opening Endoscopic | 7 Autologous Tissue Substitute<br>J Synthetic Substitute<br>K Nonautologous Tissue Substitute<br>Z No Device | 4 Cutaneous<br>9 Duodenum<br>A Jejunum<br>B Ileum<br>L Transverse Colon  |
| 6 Stomach<br>9 Duodenum  | 3 Percutaneous  | J Synthetic Substitute   | 4 Cutaneous  |
| A Jejunum  | 0 Open<br>4 Percutaneous Endoscopic<br>8 Via Natural or Artificial Opening Endoscopic | 7 Autologous Tissue Substitute<br>J Synthetic Substitute<br>K Nonautologous Tissue Substitute<br>Z No Device | 4 Cutaneous<br>A Jejunum<br>B Ileum<br>H Cecum<br>K Ascending Colon<br>L Transverse Colon<br>M Descending Colon<br>N Sigmoid Colon<br>P Rectum<br>Q Anus |
| A Jejunum  | 3 Percutaneous  | J Synthetic Substitute   | 4 Cutaneous  |
| B Ileum  | 0 Open<br>4 Percutaneous Endoscopic<br>8 Via Natural or Artificial Opening Endoscopic | 7 Autologous Tissue Substitute<br>J Synthetic Substitute<br>K Nonautologous Tissue Substitute<br>Z No Device | 4 Cutaneous<br>B Ileum<br>H Cecum<br>K Ascending Colon<br>L Transverse Colon<br>M Descending Colon<br>N Sigmoid Colon<br>P Rectum<br>Q Anus              |
| B Ileum  | 3 Percutaneous  | J Synthetic Substitute   | 4 Cutaneous  |

- **Gastric bypass from stomach to ileum, performed via laparotomy**

0D160ZB Bypass stomach to ileum, open approach

- **Gastric bypass from stomach to jejunum, performed via laparoscopy**

0D164ZA Bypass stomach to jejunum, percutaneous endoscopic approach

## Example: Gastric Banding

| SECTION      0    Medical And Surgical  |  |  |                       |
|---|--|--|-----------------------|
| BODY SYSTEM    D    Gastrointestinal System   |  |  |                       |
| OPERATION       V    Restriction: Partially closing an orifice or the lumen of a tubular body part  |  |  |                       |
| BODY PART   | APPROACH   | DEVICE   | QUALIFIER             |
| <b>1</b> Esophagus, Upper<br><b>2</b> Esophagus, Middle<br><b>3</b> Esophagus, Lower<br><b>4</b> Esophagogastric Junction<br><b>5</b> Esophagus<br><b>6</b> Stomach<br><b>7</b> Stomach, Pylorus<br><b>8</b> Small Intestine<br><b>9</b> Duodenum<br><b>A</b> Jejunum<br><b>B</b> Ileum<br><b>C</b> Ileocecal Valve<br><b>E</b> Large Intestine<br><b>F</b> Large Intestine, Right<br><b>G</b> Large Intestine, Left<br><b>H</b> Cecum<br><b>K</b> Ascending Colon<br><b>L</b> Transverse Colon<br><b>M</b> Descending Colon<br><b>N</b> Sigmoid Colon<br><b>P</b> Rectum | <b>0</b> Open<br><b>3</b> Percutaneous<br><b>4</b> Percutaneous Endoscopic | <b>C</b> Extraluminal Device<br><b>D</b> Intraluminal Device<br><b>Z</b> No Device | <b>Z</b> No Qualifier |

| SECTION     | 0   | Medical And Surgical  |   |
|-------------|---|---|---|
| BODY SYSTEM | D   | Gastrointestinal System   |   |
| OPERATION   | B   | Excision: Cutting out or off, without replacement, a portion of a body part |   |
| BODY PART   | APPROACH  | DEVICE  | QUALIFIER   |
| 6 Stomach   | <b>0</b> Open<br><b>3</b> Percutaneous<br><b>4</b> Percutaneous Endoscopic<br><b>7</b> Via Natural or Artificial Opening<br><b>8</b> Via Natural or Artificial Opening Endoscopic | <b>Z</b> No Device  | <b>3</b> Vertical<br><b>X</b> Diagnostic<br><b>Z</b> No Qualifier |

### Example: Sleeve Gastrectomy

- **Vertical sleeve gastrectomy, via laparoscopic approach**

0DB64Z3    Excision of stomach, percutaneous endoscopic approach, vertical

### Example: Biliopancreatic Diversion

For each procedure, multiple codes are assigned to represent the different components of the procedure, eg, partial gastrectomy, re-routing and anastomosis of the small intestine.

#### Biliopancreatic diversion, open

0DB60ZZ    Excision of stomach, open approach

0D160ZB    Bypass stomach to ileum, open approach

- **Pylorus-sparing biliopancreatic diversion with duodenal switch, open**

0DB60ZZ    Excision of stomach, open approach

0D190ZB    Bypass duodenum to ileum, open approach



## Additional Procedures

Bariatric patients may require additional procedures, such as corrections to implanted devices or procedures for operative complications.

Corrections to bariatric devices typically use a specific root operation:<sup>2</sup>

- **W-Revision:** Correcting, to the extent possible, a portion of a malfunctioning device or the position of a displaced device, eg, repositioning a gastric band

Procedures for operative complications generally use whatever root operation reflects the objective of the procedure, such as:

- **D-Dilation:** Expanding the orifice or the lumen of a tubular body part, eg, ballooning an anastomotic stricture

### Example: Revision of Gastric Band

| SECTION 0 Medical And Surgical   |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| BODY SYSTEM D Gastrointestinal System  |   |  |  |
| OPERATION W Revision: Correcting, to the extent possible, a portion of a malfunctioning device or the position of a displaced device |   |  |  |
| BODY PART  | APPROACH  | DEVICE   | QUALIFIER                                    |
| 6 Stomach  | 0 Open<br>3 Percutaneous<br>4 Percutaneous Endoscopic | 0 Drainage Device<br>2 Monitoring Device<br>3 Infusion Device<br>7 Autologous Tissue Substitute<br>C Extraluminal Device<br>D Intraluminal Device<br>J Synthetic Substitute<br>K Nonautologous Tissue Substitute<br>M Stimulator Lead<br>U Feeding Device<br>Z No Device | 3 Vertical<br>X Diagnostic<br>Z No Qualifier |

- **Repositioning gastric band via laparoscopy**

[0DW64CZ](#) Revision of extraluminal device of stomach, percutaneous endoscopic approach

Root operation Revision is used for correcting a device in some way. It is not used for replacement of a device or for routine band size adjustment by introduction of fluid through the access port. It is also not used for correcting a complication of a prior surgical procedure.<sup>2</sup>

## Example: Dilation of Anastomotic Stricture

| SECTION 0 Medical And Surgical   |   |  |                       |
|--|---|--|-----------------------|
| BODY SYSTEM D Gastrointestinal System  |   |  |                       |
| OPERATION 7 Dilation: Expanding an orifice or the lumen of a tubular body part   |   |  |                       |
| BODY PART  | APPROACH  | DEVICE   | QUALIFIER             |
| <b>1</b> Esophagus, Upper<br><b>2</b> Esophagus, Middle<br><b>3</b> Esophagus, Lower<br><b>4</b> Esophagogastric Junction<br><b>5</b> Esophagus<br><b>6</b> Stomach<br><b>7</b> Stomach, Pylorus<br><b>8</b> Small Intestine<br><b>9</b> Duodenum<br><b>A</b> Jejunum<br><b>B</b> Ileum<br><b>C</b> Ileocecal Valve<br><b>E</b> Large Intestine<br><b>F</b> Large Intestine, Right<br><b>G</b> Large Intestine, Left<br><b>H</b> Cecum<br><b>K</b> Ascending Colon<br><b>L</b> Transverse Colon<br><b>M</b> Descending Colon<br><b>N</b> Sigmoid Colon<br><b>P</b> Rectum<br><b>Q</b> Anus | <b>0</b> Open<br><b>3</b> Percutaneous<br><b>4</b> Percutaneous Endoscopic<br><b>7</b> Via Natural or Artificial Opening<br><b>8</b> Via Natural or Artificial Opening Endoscopic | <b>D</b> Intraluminal Device<br><b>Z</b> No Device | <b>Z</b> No Qualifier |

Assuming both sides of the anastomosis are dilated, both codes are assigned.

▪ **Ballooning of gastrojejunal stricture via EGD, status post Roux-en-Y gastric bypass**

**0D768ZZ** Dilation of stomach, via natural or artificial opening endoscopic

**0D7A8ZZ** Dilation of jejunum, via natural or artificial opening endoscopic

## Example: Robotic Assistance

Bariatric procedures are sometimes performed with robotic assistance. ICD-10-PCS provides separate codes for this, which are assigned in addition to the primary bariatric procedure codes. Note that the robotic assistance codes are found in a completely different section from those of the primary procedures.

| SECTION 8 Other Procedures   |   |                                     |                       |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| BODY SYSTEM E Physiological Systems and Anatomical Regions   |   |                                     |                       |
| OPERATION 0 Other Procedures: Methodologies which attempt to remediate or cure a disorder or disease |   |                                     |                       |
| BODY PART  | APPROACH  | DEVICE                              | QUALIFIER             |
| <b>9</b> Duodenum<br><b>W</b> Trunk Region   | <b>0</b> Open<br><b>3</b> Percutaneous<br><b>4</b> Percutaneous Endoscopic<br><b>7</b> Via Natural or Artificial Opening<br><b>8</b> Via Natural or Artificial Opening Endoscopic | <b>C</b> Robotic Assisted Procedure | <b>Z</b> No Qualifier |

# HOSPITAL INPATIENT DRGS FOR BARIATRIC SURGERY

Under Medicare’s MS-DRG methodology for hospital inpatient payment, each inpatient stay is assigned to one of about 750 diagnosis-related groups, based on the ICD-10 codes assigned to the diagnoses and procedures. Each MS-DRG has a relative weight that is then converted to a flat payment amount. Implanted devices are typically included in the flat payment and are not paid separately. Only one MS-DRG is assigned for each inpatient stay, regardless of the number of procedures performed. MS-DRGs shown are those typically assigned to the following scenarios when the patient is admitted specifically for the procedure.

W MCC in MS-DRG titles refer to the secondary diagnosis codes that are designated as major complications or comorbidities. MS-DRGs have at least one major secondary complication or comorbidity. Similarly, W CC in MS-DRG titles refer to secondary diagnosis codes designated as other (non-major) complications or comorbidities. MS-DRGs WO CC/MCCs have no secondary diagnoses that are designated as complications or comorbidities, major or otherwise. Note that some secondary diagnoses are only designated as CCs or MCCs when the conditions were present on admission, and do not count as CCs or MCCs when the conditions are acquired during the stay.

In addition, Post-Acute Care Transfer (PACT) status refers to selected DRGs in which payment to the hospital may be reduced when the patient is discharged by being transferred out. The DRGs impacted are those marked “Yes” and the patient must be transferred out before the geometric mean length of stay to certain post-acute care providers, including rehabilitation hospitals, long term care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, or to home under the care of a home health agency. When these conditions are met, the DRG payment is converted to a per diem and payment is made as double the per diem rate for the first day plus the per diem rate for each remaining day up to the full DRG payment.

When the inpatient admission was for the purpose of performing the bariatric procedure, DRGs 619-621 are typically assigned based on a principal diagnosis of obesity. When the patient is admitted for procedures to address complications of bariatric devices or prior bariatric procedures, DRGs 326-328 are typically assigned based on a complication principal diagnosis.

| MS-DRG <sup>3</sup>                   | MS-DRG TITLE <sup>3</sup>                              | FY 2020 Relative Weight <sup>3</sup> | FY 2020 Geometric Mean Length of Stay <sup>3</sup> | FY 2020 Subject to PACT <sup>3</sup> | FY 2020 Medicare National Average <sup>3</sup> |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>PRIMARY BARIATRIC PROCEDURES</b>   |  |                                      |  |                                      |  |
| 619                                   | OR Procedures for Obesity W MCC                        | 3.0785                               | 3.1  | No                                   | \$19,268                                       |
| 620                                   | OR Procedures for Obesity W CC                         | 1.7946                               | 1.9  | No                                   | \$11,232                                       |
| 621                                   | OR Procedures for Obesity W/O CC/MCC                   | 1.5720                               | 1.5  | No                                   | \$9,839  |
| <b>REVISIONS AND OTHER PROCEDURES</b> |  |                                      |  |                                      |  |
| 326                                   | Stomach, Esophageal and Duodenal Procedures W MCC      | 5.2705                               | 9.8  | Yes                                  | \$32,988                                       |
| 327                                   | Stomach, Esophageal and Duodenal Procedures W CC       | 2.5729                               | 4.7  | Yes                                  | \$16,104                                       |
| 328                                   | Stomach, Esophageal and Duodenal Procedures W/O CC/MCC | 1.5750                               | 2.2  | Yes                                  | \$9,858  |

## References

1. ICD-10-CM: Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-PCS). <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/2018-ICD-10-PCS-and-GEMs.html>
2. 2020 ICD-10-PCS Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting. <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/2020-ICD-10-PCS-Guidelines.pdf>
3. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Medicare Program; Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals and the Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System and Policy Changes and Fiscal Year 2020 Rates; Quality Reporting Requirements for Specific Providers; Medicare and Medicaid Promoting Interoperability Programs Requirements for Eligible Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals; Final Rule, Federal Register (84 Fed Reg. No. 159 42044 – 42701) 42 CFR Parts 412, 413, and 495. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-08-16/pdf/2019-16762.pdf>. Published August 16, 2019. See also – Correction Notice, Federal Register 84 Fed. Reg. No. 195 53603 – 53630 42 CFR Parts 412, 413, and 495. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-10-08/pdf/2019-21865.pdf>. Published October 8, 2019.

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Medtronic  
5920 Longbow Drive  
Boulder, CO 80301  
USA  
T: (303) 530-2300  
US: (800) 255-8522

[medtronic.com](https://www.medtronic.com)

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