



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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TRICARE
MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY

MB&RB

**CHANGE 144
6010.54-M
AUGUST 17, 2011**

**PUBLICATIONS SYSTEM CHANGE TRANSMITTAL
FOR
TRICARE POLICY MANUAL (TPM), AUGUST 2002**

The TRICARE Management Activity has authorized the following addition(s)/revision(s).

CHANGE TITLE: POLICY ON SURGERY FOR MORBID OBESITY

CONREQ: 15301

PAGE CHANGE(S): See page 2.

SUMMARY OF CHANGE(S): This change to the TRICARE policy on surgery for morbid obesity removes language that limited the types of surgical procedures to allow coverage for other proven procedures based on the Program standard of reliable evidence. Prior to this change, the policy limited surgical intervention for morbid obesity to gastric bypass, laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding, gastric stapling, or gastroplasty methods (excluding all other types) when the primary purpose of surgery was to treat a severe-related medical illness or medical condition. This change also incorporates the new nationally accepted medical use of the body mass index (BMI) (the definition of morbid obesity) to determine an individual's eligibility for bariatric surgery, rather than the typical assessed height-weight table (the Metropolitan Life Table).

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 16, 2011.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Upon direction of the Contracting Officer.

**Ann N. Fazzini
Chief, Medical Benefits and
Reimbursement Branch**

ATTACHMENT(S): 5 PAGE(S)
DISTRIBUTION: 6010.54-M

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REMOVE PAGE(S)

CHAPTER 4

Section 13.2, pages 1 through 3

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