

Queensland Health is undertaking a two year initiative to offer bariatric surgery to eligible patients with diabetes

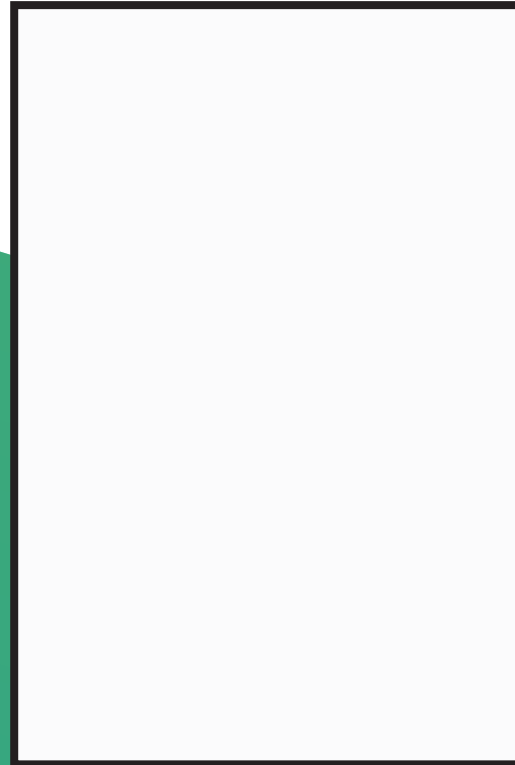
Bariatric (weight loss) surgery

*A guide for patients
considering surgery*



What is bariatric (weight loss) surgery?

Bariatric or weight loss surgery includes a variety of procedures that may assist patients to lose weight. The most common procedures involve removing a portion of the stomach (gastrectomy) or surgically changing the course of the gastrointestinal tract to bypass a section of small bowel (gastric bypass). Bariatric surgery has the potential to significantly improve health outcomes for obese patients with diabetes, especially when coupled with healthy eating and lifestyle changes after surgery.



Why offer bariatric surgery to people with diabetes?

International research shows that bariatric surgery is a highly effective treatment for patients with type 2 diabetes and obesity. A number of studies confirm that the surgery can significantly improve diabetes control and in many cases it can result in resolution of diabetes. This can significantly improve the lives of patients with diabetes and reduce the incidence of diabetes related complications.

For more information:

Visit our website

[https://www.health.qld.gov.au/
improvement/projects/
statewide-bariatric-surgery-initiative3](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/improvement/projects/statewide-bariatric-surgery-initiative3)

Bariatric (weight loss) surgery

To assist with the management of type 2 diabetes

Am I eligible for bariatric surgery?

To be considered for bariatric surgery you must:

- be aged between 18-65 years of age
- have type 2 diabetes and are not reaching treatment targets
- have a BMI more than 35kg/m²
- already be seeing a public hospital specialist for conditions that may be improved through bariatric surgery.

How can I access bariatric surgery?

Your public hospital specialist will determine if you may be suitable for an assessment for surgery and provide you with a referral.

If you are eligible for a referral you will be contacted directly by your specialist. You do not need to contact your hospital or specialist.

How were the criteria developed?

A multi-disciplinary team of experienced health professionals including GPs, specialists, nurses and allied health professionals applied their vast clinical expertise to the most current Australian and international research to develop criteria for determining patient eligibility.

Strict adherence to eligibility criteria ensures equity and will help achieve the most significant health benefits for the individual and the wider community.

Does it matter where I live?

All Queensland residents who are engaged with a public hospital specialist for a condition that may be improved through bariatric surgery will be fairly and equitably assessed for bariatric surgery in accordance with the eligibility criteria.

Surgery will be offered to patients who will benefit most, regardless of geographical location.

Where will the surgery be performed?

During the two year project, the surgery will be performed in Brisbane. Some appointments will be offered by telehealth where appropriate.

What happens next?

If you are referred, you will be assessed for suitability according to evidence-based criteria and the patients who will benefit most from surgery will be prioritised and offered an appointment.

If you are not eligible for surgery or the risks of surgery are too high, your specialist will be asked to provide you alternative options for the treatment of your condition(s).