



Aetna Better Health of Texas PROVIDER NOTIFICATION

Dear Valued Provider,

In a periodic review of our Prior Authorization code listing, Effective July 22, 2024, Aetna Better Health of Texas **will require prior authorization** for the code listed below for participating providers. As always, do not hesitate to contact your Aetna Better Health of Texas Provider Relations Representative with any questions or comments.

Please refer to the provider pre-authorization tool for the most up to date listing of codes requiring a prior authorization

<https://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/texas/providers/prior-authorization.html>

Please note: This new process may result in a change in how your practice is reimbursed for these services. We urge you to thoroughly review the information in this document and in the attached policy.

CHIP

Bexar area

1-866-818-0959 (TTY: 711)

Tarrant area

1-800-245-5380 (TTY: 711)

STAR (Medicaid)

Bexar area

1-800-248-7767 (TTY: 711)

Tarrant area

1-800-306-8612 (TTY: 711)

STAR Kids

Dallas and Tarrant areas

1-844-787-5437 (TTY: 711)

Thank you for your valued partnership in caring for our Aetna Better Health Members.

Sincerely,

Provider Services and Chief Medical Officer

Aetna Better Health of Texas

Code List

| Code | Code Description |
|-------|--------------------------|
| 43659 | UNLISTED LAPS PX STOMACH |

Bariatric surgery is considered medically necessary when used as a means to treat covered medical conditions that are caused or significantly worsened by the client's obesity in cases where those comorbid conditions cannot be adequately treated by standard measures unless significant weight reduction takes place. The pathophysiology of the covered comorbid conditions must be sufficiently severe that the expected benefits of weight loss subsequent to this surgery significantly outweigh the risks associated with bariatric surgery.

The following procedure codes may be reimbursed for medically necessary bariatric surgery services with prior authorization: 43644, 43645, 43659, 43770, 43771, 43772, 43773, 43774, 43775, 43842, 43843, 43845, 43846, 43847, 43848, 43886, 43887, and 43888.

Bariatric surgery is not a benefit when the primary purpose of the surgery is any of the following:

- For weight loss for its own sake
- For cosmetic purposes
- For reasons of psychological dissatisfaction with personal body image
- For the client's or provider's convenience or preference