

CHECKLIST FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT PROGRAM

Once you decide that weight reduction surgery is the right step, it is equally important to determine which program is best for you. The following checklist will serve as an important guide to help you determine if the physician and program you are considering have the comprehensive level of professionalism, care and competency required.

The Right Physician:

- How long has the doctor specialized in approved weight reduction surgery? _____
- What specialized training has the doctor received? _____
- How many cases does the doctor perform each year? _____
- How many cases has the doctor completed? _____
- What is the complication rate associated with the doctor under consideration? _____
- Has the doctor completed an approved Surgical Residency program? _____
- Is the doctor Board Certified or Board Qualified in General Surgery? _____
- Has the doctor been approved for privileges to perform gastrointestinal surgery? _____
- Has the doctor been approved for privileges to perform open or Laproscopic Bariatric surgery? _____
- Is the doctor an active member of the ASBS (American Society for Bariatric Surgery)? _____

The Right Facility:

- Does the facility have a specialized program devoted to the needs of Bariatric surgery patients and their families? _____
- Does the facility have dedicated equipment such as specialized surgical instruments and oversized beds to handle the needs of morbidly obese patients? _____
- Does the facility have a nursing staff specifically trained to meet the patients' special needs? _____
- Does the facility provide an aftercare program? _____
- Does the aftercare program include support groups? _____
- Does the facility offer an ongoing exercise program? _____
- Does the facility's program include continuing education? _____
- Is nutritional counseling done before discharge from surgery? _____
- Is nutritional counseling provided after surgery? _____
- What outcomes does the facility track (i.e. complication rates by physicians, patient follow-up, leakage rate, percent of excessive weight loss, lifetime follow-up and patient aftercare)? _____