



St Francis Surgical Weight Loss Program Policies

www.gottolose.org

- Surgical weight loss is an elective procedure. Participation in our program, including any medically supervised diet/exercise plan and psychological evaluation, is not a guarantee that you will be accepted as a surgical candidate. All members of our multidisciplinary team must approve you for surgery. If at any time during the pre-op program you are felt to be an inappropriate candidate, we reserve the right to dismiss you from our program.
- Being respectful and courteous to office staff is required. Dismissal from our program can occur for problematic behavior, including but not limited to, two missed appointments and rude behavior.
- All fees not covered by insurance are due prior to your pre-assessment appointment. If you have not paid the full amount by that date, your appointment will be cancelled and your surgery date may be changed or cancelled.
- Tobacco free for 6 months, prior to starting with our program. Nicotine blood level will be completed prior to surgery.
- Drug abuse free for 1 year. Alcohol abuse free for 1 year.
- Ages 18-65. If over age 65, your records will be reviewed by the surgeon to determine potential candidacy prior to starting our program.
- No undiagnosed or untreated psychological issues. If you are followed by a Psychiatrist, Psychologist, or Counselor, we require those medical records. Our physician will review the records. If you have conditions that we deem could be exacerbated in the perioperative period*, you will not be a candidate for our program as we do not have comprehensive psychiatric capabilities at our hospital. *see below
- No failed: psychological, dietitian or other team evaluation from another program.
- Psychological evaluation must be within 6 months of surgery.

- We do not require a specific amount of weight loss in the pre-operative phase of our program; however, **you must not have a net gain.**
- If you are being followed by our dietitian for a supervised diet/exercise program and are late to or miss >2 appointments, you will be dismissed from our program.
- If you are found to not be an appropriate surgical weight loss candidate or are dismissed from our program for any reason during completion of the required steps of our program, your payment for psychological, dietitian, or physician services will NOT be refunded. These are required services to determine your eligibility.
- You are responsible for any fees from professional offices associated with obtaining your medical records for our review.
- If you are found to not be an appropriate surgical weight loss candidate or are dismissed from our program for any reason during completion of the required steps of our program, the medical records you have provided us, from your various practitioners, will not be returned to you or forwarded elsewhere due to HIPPA laws.
- You must have a reliable way for us to communicate with you and have stable transportation and living conditions.
- We request that you have a visit with your primary care physician within 6 months prior to surgery. If you do not have a primary care physician, you will need to establish care prior to starting our program.
- There is a \$25 fee for FMLA and/or Short Term Disability paperwork. This payment will be collected upon receipt of your paperwork.

*Potential conditions that could be exacerbated by surgical weight loss and may be reason for contraindication of surgical pursuit with Bon Secours St. Francis Surgical Weight Loss: Active drug abuse, active suicidal ideation, Borderline personality disorder, Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder, Psychotic disorder, uncontrolled depression or anxiety, defined non-compliance with previous medical care, self-destructive or suicidal behavior, psychiatric hospitalizations

Carolina Surgical Associates (864) 675-4815:

Monday – Thursday 8:00 am – 5:00pm

Friday 8:00 am -3:00 pm

St Francis Surgical Weight Loss (864) 675-4819:

Monday – Thursday 8:00 am – 5:00pm

Friday 8:00 am -12:00 pm