



# Weekly Provider News

January 14, 2015

## Bariatric Surgery Referral Process

Effective February 1, 2015 the Alliance will require documentation of a supervised, multi-disciplinary diet and exercise program for all members prior to being referred for bariatric surgery evaluation. Alliance members will be required to have:

1. Participated in a nutrition and exercise program within the last 24 months for a cumulative total of six months or longer with participation in any one program for a minimum of three consecutive months.  
AND
2. Documentation submitted to the Alliance that includes:
  - Records of the supervising professional's initial assessment of the member and the supervising professional's assessment of the member's progress (e.g., weight change, exercise program participation, etc.) at the completion of a multi-disciplinary weight loss regimen.
  - Documentation that a multi-disciplinary weight loss program included, at a minimum, weight management, nutrition assessment/counseling, and an exercise program.

Note that a physician's summary letter without evidence of contemporaneous professional oversight is not sufficient documentation.

## Alliance Weight Watchers Support Program is a Multi-Disciplinary Weight Loss Program

Participation in the Alliance sponsored Weight Watchers Support (WWS) program constitutes a multi-disciplinary weight loss program. Longitudinal WWS program records may substitute for physician medical records/documentation.

Primary Care Providers with eligible Alliance members can request members receive a Weight Watchers scholarship to satisfy the pre-bariatric surgery weight-loss attempt requirement and documentation.

For more information, please call our Health Education Department at (800) 700-3874, ext 5580.

### Questions?

Contact your Provider Services Representative or call Provider Services at (800) 700-3874 ext. 5504