

# SURGICAL WEIGHT LOSS CENTRE

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Dear Doctor

Your patient is interested in our low-cost Streamlined Sleeve surgical weight loss program, and would like you to be involved in their pre-operative assessment, perioperative care and long-term management.

Please find attached information about the Streamlined Sleeve surgical weight loss program.

Over the years, we have developed an understanding of the patients who tend to achieve good long-term results with a sleeve gastrectomy without requiring the intensive pre-operative surgical assessment, peri-operative medical management and post-operative allied-health micromanagement provided by our full support bariatric program package.

To determine if your patient would be most suited for our Streamlined or our Full-Support Program, it would be appreciated if you would:

1. **REVIEW BARIATRIC SURGERY QUESTIONNAIRE**

Assist your patient to complete the attached Bariatric Surgery Questionnaire, or review their answers to ensure they are complete and accurate.

2. **WRITE A REFERRAL TO THE SURGEON**

Write a referral to Dr Jordaan for bariatric surgery assessment

3. **REQUEST BLOOD TESTS**

Provide referral for pre-operative baseline bloods with micro nutrient profile as over a third of candidates for bariatric surgery have 'high calorie malnutrition' that requires careful management. These are fasting bloods and QML has agreed to bulk-bill these bloods to limit the patient's out of pocket costs.

FBC/ELFTs	TFTs	HbA1c	PTH	Iron Studies
Lipid Profile	Vitamin D	Folic Acid	Vit B12	Vit B1
Vitamin A	Zinc	Copper		

4. **CREATE A TEAM CARE ARRANGEMENT (IF APPROPRIATE)**

To achieve the best possible results from the surgery, we recommend Streamlined Sleeve patients combine the surgery with our post-operative STAY ON TRACK Lifestyle Modification program for one-on-one appointments with our dietitians, exercise therapists, and bariatric nurses.

Your patient may be eligible for an GP Management Plan and Enhanced Primary Care referral with Team Care Arrangement to assist with the out of pocket costs of these allied health care visits to treat their chronic condition of obesity. I have advised your patient that it would be best to discuss a Care Plan with you at this visit to determine if this would be a suitable option for them. Should you decide to create a Team Care Arrangement, please take this letter as confirmation that the Surgical Weight Loss Centre dietitians agree to be a provider of care for this patient and participate under the Team Care Arrangement. They will send a written report to you after each service.

5. **MAKE FOLLOW UP ARRANGEMENTS**

- a. Before surgery to check baseline bloods results and micronutrient profile. We are happy provide you with phone advice and/or written protocols if that would be of benefit, to assist you with managing any pre-operative nutritional deficiencies identified.
- b. 1 and 2 months after surgery to monitor weight loss and comorbidity resolution and adjust medications as appropriate.
- c. 3 months after surgery to recheck baseline bloods with micro nutrient profiles, as well as monitor weight loss and comorbidity resolution and adjust medications and Enhanced Primary Care Plan as appropriate.
- d. Annually after surgery to recheck baseline bloods with micro nutrient profiles, as well as monitor weight loss and comorbidity resolution and adjust medications, Enhanced Primary Care Plan and Team Care Arrangements as appropriate.

At any stage we are happy to provide you with phone advice and/or written protocols if that would be of benefit, and would be happy for you to refer your patient back to our unit should there be any concerns about their post-operative progress.

If you have any questions about the program, please feel free to give us a call. I have an 'open phone' policy for GPs and am happy to provide quick answers to your urgent questions.

Thank you for involving us in your patient's care and we will keep you informed of their progress.

**Yours Sincerely,**

(Dictated but not signed in the interest of timely communication)

**Jorrie Jordaan**

Our preferred method of reporting is through Medical Objects. Please note that we do not perform WorkCover cases. This letter is to be treated as confidential to the addressed persons only. It is not to be reproduced or used as a medical report.