



BARIATRIC SURGEON QUESTIONNAIRE

for _____
(insert surgeon's name here)

Print this questionnaire for each surgeon on your list. The questions are listed in the left column and space for the responses you receive along with your personal notes have been provided to the right of each question. Extra blank boxes have also been provided for additional questions you may want to ask.

Underlined words in blue font indicate that you should review the web page in parenthesis for more information.

All questions and responses should be cross-referenced with our [Bariatric Doctors](#) web page.

During Phone Call to Surgeons' Offices

When beginning your phone call, let the representative you are speaking with know that you have several questions to ask and that the conversation may take 30 minutes or more. Confirm that they have the time available before getting started.

Note the date, time, phone number and representative's name for future reference:

Date & time of scheduled phone call: _____

Phone number: _____

Representative's name: _____

Question	Response
What percentage of your practice's patients are bariatric surgery patients?	
What types of weight loss procedures does the surgeon perform?	



BARIATRIC SURGERY SOURCE

<p>How many bariatric procedures of each type does your <u>practice</u> perform per year?</p>	
<p>How many bariatric procedures of each type does the <u>surgeon</u> perform per year?</p>	
<p>What are the surgeon's complication and mortality rates?</p>	
<p>How long will I have to wait for surgery after I get approved?</p>	
<p>Please briefly review the professionals who will be directly responsible for my care along with their qualifications.</p>	<p>Bariatric program coordinator/director</p> <p>Bariatric nurses supporting the surgeon before, during and after surgery</p> <p>Anesthesiologist – (get the anesthesiologist's name confirm that they have been certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology (ABA) (https://secure.abanes.org/portal/WhosCertified.asp)).</p> <p>Psychologist –</p>



BARIATRIC SURGERY SOURCE

	<p>Dietician or nutritionist –</p> <p>Fitness advice –</p> <p>Support groups –</p> <p>Insurance coordinator (if you have insurance) –</p>
<p>Will another doctor be assisting the surgeon during surgery? If so, what are the assistant's qualifications and how involved will he/she be in my treatment?</p>	
<p>Does the surgeon have a short and long-term follow up program to work with me after surgery?</p>	
<p>Are your facilities equipped to handle obese patients?</p>	
<p>Do you offer seminars for potential patients? If so what are the upcoming dates and times and where are they held?</p>	

Additional questions you've come up with (if any)	

During Step 4: Face-to-Face Interview with Surgeon

The following questions are grouped into 5 sections: General, Procedure, Risks/Complications/Side Effects, Financial and After-care.

When scheduling your face-to-face interview ask for at least one hour of the surgeon's time. Write down the date, time and address below for future reference:

Date & time of interview: _____

Address: _____

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Question/Comment	Response/Notes
Give the surgeon a brief overview of what you have already learned... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why you feel you are a good candidate for surgery • Which types of bariatric surgery you are considering 	



<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your understanding about the potential bariatric surgery complications and risks• What you expect your life after weight loss surgery to be like	
What percentage of patients do you deny and why?	
Which surgery do you believe is right for me and why?	
Out of the 5 or 6 surgeries backed by varying levels of research, why has the surgeon chosen to become an expert in their specific procedures?	

PROCEDURE QUESTIONS

Question/Comment	Response/Notes
Please give me an overview about what I will need to do in the weeks leading up to surgery.	
Will you be using any new technology or techniques during the procedure? If so, has it been proven effective? Does your team have experience using such technology (i.e. how long, at which hospitals, and with what degree of success).	
What will happen immediately after surgery and what do you expect recovery to be like?	
Procedure-specific questions (review the additional procedure-specific questions to ask on our Bariatric Doctors page (http://www.bariatric-surgery-source.com/bariatric-doctors.html#procedure_specific))	

RISKS, COMPLICATIONS AND SIDE EFFECTS QUESTIONS

Question/Comment	Response/Notes
<p>What are the bariatric surgery complications that patients experience most with the procedure(s) I am considering?</p>	
<p>How do my specific characteristics impact my risk for complications?</p>	
<p>What can be done to prevent blood clots (http://www.bariatric-surgery-source.com/blood-clot-symptoms.html)?</p>	
<p>Are you familiar with the Metabolic Acuity Score (MAS) or the Obesity Surgery Mortality Risk Score (OS-MRS) (http://www.bariatric-surgery-source.com/bariatric-surgery-complications.html#MAS)? Do you have access to either of these tests?</p>	
<p>What bowel function changes should I expect following surgery?</p>	
<p>I have read that as many as 1/3 of bariatric surgery patients develop gallstones in the years following surgery. Is removing my gall bladder during surgery something that should be considered?</p>	





FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

Question/Comment	Response/Notes
(If you have insurance that covers weight loss surgery) What percentage of patients have you been able to get insurance approved for?	
(If you do not have insurance for surgery) Does your office offer direct patient financing (review our Financing Bariatric Surgery page (http://www.bariatric-surgery-source.com/financing-bariatric-surgery.html) before your interview for important considerations regarding direct financing through your surgeon).	
Do you provide BLIS coverage (http://www.bariatric-surgery-source.com/financing-bariatric-surgery.html#1)?	



AFTER-CARE QUESTIONS

Question/Comment	Response/Notes
Tell me all about your patient after-care program and how you help patients achieve and maintain their goal weight.	
What will my diet and bariatric vitamin regimen be following surgery?	
What is your long-term plan for monitoring my health?	