

Measurement of Obesity

The Surgical Weight Loss Program at Northwest Medical Center is focused on helping the morbidly obese patient. Acceptance into the program is based on a careful evaluation of the patient's BMI and any weight-induced co-morbidities. BMI is calculated by a formula that takes into consideration a person's weight and height.

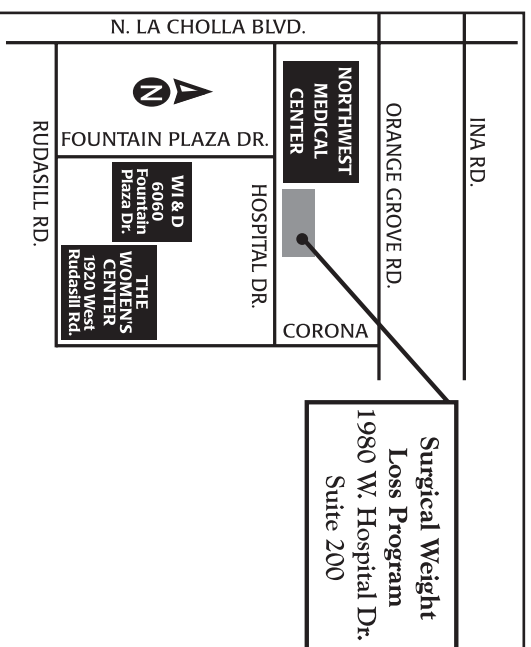
Automated BMI calculators are available on the Northwest Medical Center Web site at www.northwestmedicalcenter.com/HC_BodyMass.asp

About Our Program Coordinator

Gayle Duke is a registered nurse and a successful surgical gastric bypass patient herself. What Gayle brings to the program at Northwest Medical Center is a unique combination of compassionate nursing skills with the intimate, first-hand knowledge of the weight loss surgery experience. As the Surgical Weight Loss Program Coordinator, Gayle will be there to coordinate each patient's delivery of care from their first encounter with the program, to their successful transition to post-operative life.

The Surgical Weight Loss Program is located on the NMC campus adjacent to the hospital.

Northwest Medical Plaza
1980 W. Hospital Drive, Suite 200



Additional Information

If you would like additional information about the Surgical Weight Loss Program at Northwest Medical Center, please call

(520) 544-2000

Surgical Weight Loss Program



Northwest Medical Center

6200 N. La Cholla Boulevard
Tucson, Arizona 85741 • 520-742-9000
northwestmedicalcenter.com

Achieving Weight Loss Through Surgery

For the patient who suffers from clinical obesity, their daily life is filled with the frustrations brought on by the physical and social handicaps caused by their weight.

Currently, more than 10-percent of the American population is defined as clinically obese, meaning they exceed their ideal body weight by more than 20-percent. Within this weight designation, people are considered to be morbidly obese if they are more than 100 pounds overweight. For these individuals, serious health problems or co-morbidities can also be of issue.

Although dieting remains the most healthful method of weight management for individuals who are mildly or moderately overweight, for the morbidly obese, dieting is generally no longer effective. Surgical treatment is now considered the most effective approach as defined by the "National Institutes of Health (NIH) Consensus Conference on Obesity."

The history surrounding the development of surgical techniques for weight loss has resulted in several that are safe and effective in changing a patient's body physiology and helping them gain lasting control of their weight.

With the establishment of the Surgical Weight Loss Program at Northwest Medical Center, morbidly obese patients now have local access to this surgical alternative to achieve life-saving weight loss and long-term health.

A Program of Hope

Through an integrated approach to treatment, the Surgical Weight Loss Program at Northwest Medical Center offers patients the support they need to gain their greatest potential for weight reduction and long-term management.

Under the careful and sensitive direction of the program's coordinator Gayle Duke, patient care is coordinated through a team of medical professionals that includes a surgeon, a registered dietician and psychologist. It is this integration of professional medical services that provides an emotionally sensitive and behaviorally effective program.

The Surgical Weight Loss Program uses the laparoscopic technique as the lead surgical method to create a bariatric gastric bypass.

The surgeons associated with the program offer patients their surgical expertise and a sense of compassion from working with patients who have lived with the ill effects of severe obesity.

A Commitment to Long-Term Well Being

Making the decision to have weight loss surgery requires the utmost commitment to a new lifestyle that is centered upon behavioral changes, nutrition, exercise, and personal follow through. It is the patient who ultimately determines their personal level of success within the program and a much healthier lifestyle filled with activities perhaps avoided in the past, now can be fully enjoyed.

Insurance Coverage Availability

Insurance coverage for weight-loss surgery varies depending on the individual patient's insurance plan.