Bariatric Pathway Development and Implementation

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BACKGROUND / INTRODUCTION

- According to a National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey from 2009–2010, 68.8% of adult Americans are overweight or obese. 35.7% of Americans are obese and 1 in 20 Americans are extremely obese.
- Basic treatment suggestions include change of diet or following a healthy eating plan, increase in physical activity, and change of surroundings to eliminate binge eating.
- Over-the-counter (OTC) drugs can be used to promote weight loss. These medicines are not regulated by the FDA because they are categorized as supplements.
- If a patient has tried the various methods listed above and still can’t shed enough pounds to get to a healthy weight, they can be considered for bariatric surgery.
- In 2011 there were an estimated 158,000 surgeries and by 2013 there were an estimated 179,000. Of the 179,000 surgeries in 2013, an estimated 90.3% of them were Adjustable Gastric Banding Lap Band Surgery (14%), Roux-en-y gastric bypass (34.2%), and Sleeve Gastrectomy (42.1%).

METHODS

- Where do the opportunities lie?
  - High volume procedures, high cost surgeries, and signature variation
- Bundled payments are being paired with the pathways so payment structure needs to be planned.
  - Exclusions of conditions, financial planning to competitively price bundle yet keep liability risk as low as possible, attractive for private insurers to agree to it.

- Develop a clinical plan devise a plan to implement it. The pathway needs to be monitored and modified throughout implementation to maximize efficiencies.

RESULTS

- Current pathway to be revised by October 2016.
- Implementation scheduled for February 2017.

CONCLUSIONS

- The pathway process began with the goal of maximizing efficiencies within a high volume procedure.
- Given the United States’ overweight population and the increasing demand for weight loss surgery, bariatric surgery was selected for the process.
- The pathway is set to go live in October of 2016. Each milestone is split up over the course of the coming year.
- The fourth and final milestone will not be reached until April of 2017, over a year after the process first began.

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