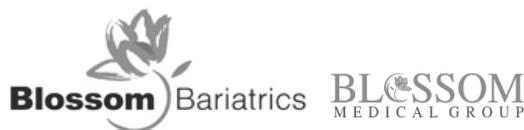


# Informed Consent for Laparoscopic Gastric Sleeve Resection



Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Please read this form carefully and ask about anything you may not understand.

I am giving Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group permission to perform a **Laparoscopic Gastric Sleeve Resection Surgery** for the treatment of obesity. The procedure is also known by such names as a "partial gastrectomy" or "vertical gastric sleeve resection". I have had an initial consultation with my surgeon. My surgeon will perform the procedure and direct my care during the operation. My consent to and understanding of the following terms and information is necessary for the procedure and my care:

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ *I understand that my surgeon will be involved in all aspects of my care during the operation and in all aspects of my care pre-operatively and post-operatively. A qualified assistant may help my surgeon during the operation. My post-operative care will be directed by my surgeon as well as, nurses or physician assistant.*

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ I affirm that I am significantly overweight and have attempted non-surgical weight loss programs without success. I recognize that the preponderance of medical literature states that obesity causes early death and significant medical problems such as hypertension, diabetes, obstructive sleep apnea, high cholesterol, infertility, cancer, gastroesophageal reflux, arthritis, chronic headaches, gout, venous stasis disease, liver disease and heart failure to name a few.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the preponderance of scientific medical data shows that the laparoscopic gastric sleeve resection can improve or cause remission of many medical problems such as hypertension, diabetes, obstructive sleep apnea, high cholesterol, infertility, cancer, gastroesophageal reflux, arthritis, chronic headaches, venous stasis disease, liver disease and heart failure; however, there are no **specific guarantees** that any one of these conditions will improve in any given patient.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that there are a number of non-surgical options as well as surgical options. My surgeon have given me the opportunity to discuss other surgical options such as the Laparoscopic Gastric Band, duodenal switch as well as non-recommended procedures such as vertical banded gastroplasty, the mini-gastric sleeve resection, the banded gastric sleeve resection and the biliopancreatic diversion. **I have decided that the Gastric Sleeve Resection is the best option for me.** *I also know that I have the right to a second opinion.*

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ I have been given pre-operative education in the form of physician interview, psychological counseling, video materials, educational books, informational websites such as [www.obesityhelp.com](http://www.obesityhelp.com), as well as access to information on my surgeons website and access to the office to answer any questions that I may have.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that my surgeon has been successful in performing the gastric sleeve resection surgery laparoscopically. However, in some instances, the procedure may have to be preformed through a traditional, "open", approach. Reasons to unexpectedly convert to an open operation include, but are not limited to, significant bleeding, extreme obesity, extremely large liver size, severe scar tissue and equipment malfunction. Conversion to an "open" procedure occurs solely at the surgeon's discretion. I agree that I have been given no guarantees that my surgery will be completed laparoscopically. **There is a rare, but possible chance that if I do not diet in the pre-operative period adequately as prescribed by my team of doctors, my liver size may cause my operation to be impossible either open or laparoscopically.**

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **I understand the anatomy of the operation as follows:**  
Using a tube as a sizing device, the majority of the stomach is cut off leaving a long tube or gastric sleeve in place. This cut off portion of the stomach is then removed from the attachments to the spleen and then pulled out one of the incisions.

**During the operation, several conditions may arise that may cause additional procedures to be performed. These include:**

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **A liver biopsy:** The risks with performing a liver biopsy include a low chance of bleeding.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Removal of the gallbladder** - In some patients, removal of the gallbladder may be medically necessary. Removal of the gallbladder increases the length of time of the total operation. Also, there is a small, less than 1 percent, risk of bile duct injury that can result in serious complications. Removal of the gallbladder may increase my hospital stay. An additional port (and incision) may be necessary to perform the procedure safely. Because of the the small, but real, incidence of complications after gallbladder removal, this procedure is not routinely performed.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Gastrostomy Tube** - In extremely rare circumstances, placement of a gastrostomy tube (G-tube) may be performed. A G-tube is placed in the excluded, lower portion of the stomach when the operation was much more difficult than expected; the procedure is a revision of a previous weight loss operation; at the surgeon's discretion. A G-tube can have several

complications associated with it including 1) leakage of stomach contents around the tube which can irritate the skin, 2) persistent drainage even after removal of the G-tube (fistula), 3) mild discomfort around the G-tube, and 4) premature removal of the G-tube which may necessitate emergency re-operation.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Incisional Hernia repair:** My surgeon's policy is to leave incisional hernias alone during the operation. The repair of a hernia may result in significant infection risks and increased pain. The hernia is also more likely to recur if performed while a person is significantly overweight. Once weight loss occurs, a hernia repair is best performed. However, for specific anatomic reasons, a hernia may have to be repaired at the time of the operation.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Esophagogastroduodenoscopy:** An EGD, or upper endoscopy may sometimes be performed in order to visualize the stomach or make sure there is no other abnormalities of the intestinal tract.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Revision of previous weight loss surgery:** Revision of previous weight loss surgeries such as the vertical banded gastroplasty increases operative time and complication rates. Overall, expected weight loss tends to be less than that compared to a person who is having weight loss surgery for the first time. Procedures that occur commonly in patients who need revisional surgery include, but are not limited to, removal of part of the stomach, placement of a drain, placement of a G-tube and endoscopy. If I have failed a previous lap-band procedure, my surgeon will remove the old lap-band (and port).

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Hiatal Hernia repair:** If a large hiatal hernia is present, this may need to be repaired. The added risks from hiatal hernia repair include, but are not limited to injury to the esophagus, dysphagia (difficulty swallowing) and hernia recurrence.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Lysis of Adhesions:** In the setting of a previous operation or significant abdominal infection, scarring always results. The degree of scar tissue is unpredictable. Sometimes, depending on the location of the scar tissue, the scar tissue must be cut (called "lysis of adhesions") in order to perform the weight loss operation. There are increased risks when a lysis of adhesions is necessary including injury to the intestines, prolonged operative times, and bleeding.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Placement of a Drain:** A drain is a thin plastic tube that comes out of the body, into a small container to allow for the removal of fluid and the control of infection. My surgeon does not routinely place a drain after a gastric sleeve resection. However, in certain rare circumstances, my surgeon may elect to place a temporary plastic drain.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that significant weight loss is a **life-altering event**. Significant changes in eating behavior occur. I understand that every patient's experience varies and the exact prediction in my ability to cope with significant forced behavior changes cannot be predicted. I understand that Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group is affiliated with a psychologist who can help me with behavioral needs.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Following gastric sleeve resection, I may experience an intolerance to certain food types, usually fatty greasy foods, dairy products, and/or sweets which may cause unpleasant symptoms similar to seasickness such as sweating, nausea, diarrhea, and shaking which may last from a few minutes to an hour. We call this "dumping". Food intolerances vary from person to person. Some patients never experience any of these symptoms or may become less sensitive over time. Rarely, a patient may have severe food intolerance that last for many months.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ When choosing a balanced menu high in protein content, eating at normal times and incorporating exercise into my daily routine, I will lose weight. However, **it is possible to defeat the purpose of surgery** by continuously drinking high calorie liquids and/or snacking throughout the day. "Grazing" behavior will cause weight regain, or poor initial weight loss.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Medicine is an unpredictable field. **Unpredictable complications can occur.** No amount of pre-operative testing can assure an uncomplicated outcome. My doctors attempt to minimize any possible chances of misdiagnosis - however, no physician or group of physicians are infallible. I have the responsibility to inform my doctors of any concerns, worries or possible complications at the earliest possible time. I agree that my doctors may make recommendations and I take full responsibility if I do not follow these recommendations.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Weight loss after a gastric sleeve resection is expressed as loss of a percentage of my pre-operative excess body weight. Excess weight is defined as my current weight minus my ideal body weight. On average patients lose between 50 and 75 percent of excess weight at two years. In other words, some patients lose more than 80 percent of their excess weight and some lose less. My surgeon at Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group will give me recommendations in how to experience the most optimal weight loss. Although, the vast majority of patients are satisfied with their weight loss, **there is no guarantee that I will achieve my goal weight.** I understand that the chances of reaching my ideal body weight are low. I understand that bariatric surgery is a tool that assists with weight loss. Some patients will regain weight. Some patients will lose less than 50% of their excess body weight. Patients who are diabetic or are more than 200 pounds overweight tend to lose a smaller percentage of excess weight (50-60 percent vs. 70-80 percent).

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Actual risks of the operation vary from person to person.**

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ There are risks associated with a gastric sleeve resection. My surgeon has tried to estimate a general risk category to each event (Extremely rare <0.1%, Very rare <0.5%, rare <2%, occurs 1-5%, common = 5-10%, very common >10%). The list of potential complications includes, but is not limited to:

**Immediate Post-operative Risks:**

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Death** (extremely rare): Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group has never had a death associated with any bariatric procedure. However, the mortality rate of the gastric sleeve resection nationwide is less than 0.2%. I realize, and my family members realize, that every gastric sleeve resection done is a major surgery and complications of this procedure can be fatal.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Significant Bleeding** (very rare): Usually during the course of a laparoscopic gastric sleeve resection, a couple of ounces of blood are lost. Bleeding may occur unexpectedly in the operating room. Bleeding may also occur post-operatively in the days after the operation. A transfusion may be necessary in some extremely rare circumstances. Re-operation to stop bleeding may be necessary.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Leak** (very rare): A leak is when the connection does not heal completely. Sometimes everything is done correctly and a leak still occurs. Serious complications can result from a leak. A leak may result in a prolong hospital stay, a long period of nothing to eat, prolonged antibiotic requirements as well as serious bodily harm such as organ failure and even death.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Nausea** (common): The most common cause of post-operative nausea is pain medication. Many patients have nausea the day of their operation. Rarely, nausea will persist for a week. In rare cases, nausea will persist for longer.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Renal Failure** (very rare): Although transient kidney (renal failure) does occur in rare patients, irreversible kidney failure is very rare.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Prolonged Ventilation** (very rare): A patient requiring a prolonged stay on a ventilator (breathing machine) in the Intensive Care Unit is rare. This may occur for example in very large patients with severe sleep apnea or after certain significant complications. In these very rare instances, a temporary tracheostomy may be necessary.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Heart Attack** (very rare): Although a heart attack is possible after a gastric sleeve resection, it is very rare. Many patients undergo testing to assess the health of their procedure. Some patients are asked to obtain cardiology clearance before proceeding with the operation. However, no amount of testing can eliminate the risks of a heart attack. Risk factors for heart disease include increased age, diabetes, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia and a family history of heart disease.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Prolonged Hospital Stay** (uncommon): Unforeseen complications may result in a prolonged hospital stay. Intensive care admission may be required.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Bowel Obstruction** (extremely uncommon): Conceivably, an obstruction can occur that would require re-operation. An obstruction can occur from a number of causes. It commonly presents with severe intestinal cramping.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Medical Consultations** (uncommon): My surgeon reserve the right to consult medical physicians to assist in my care when necessary.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)/Pulmonary Embolism** (rare): Blood clots that form in the legs, and elsewhere, and break off into the lungs are a leading cause of death in this country after any surgical procedure. My surgeon will take all reasonable actions to decrease the risk for the formation of blood clots. This includes the use of intravenous anticoagulants (a medication that thins the blood), special foot and leg stockings and walking soon after surgery. Despite all of these efforts, it is impossible to eliminate the risks of DVT (clots) altogether. There is also a possibility that the medications used to prevent blood clots can cause excessive bleeding. Any symptoms of leg swelling, chest pain or sudden shortness of breath should be immediately reported to the surgeon. Rare patients develop allergies to anticoagulants - sometimes causing very severe reactions.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Other complications** that may be common: Allergic reactions, headaches, itching, medication side-effects, heartburn/reflux, bruising, anesthetic complications, injury to the bowel or vessels, gas bloating. Minor wound problems are not infrequent. Minor drainage from the wounds, or even the wounds opening, may occur. Although scars from the laparoscopic procedure are usually small - we cannot predict how any patient will form scars. Wound infections should heal over time but may cause a visible scar.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Open procedure** (extremely rare): In some circumstances, my surgeon has had to do this operation “open”. If, FOR UNFORESEEN REASON, my operation is performed open, I am at higher risk for several complications. This includes wound infection. Wound infections may cause significant scarring and healing problems, require prolonged wound care and cause discomfort. Incisional hernias occur in approximately one-third of patients after an open gastric sleeve resection. Hernias will require an operation to repair. Hernias can cause bowel obstructions and severe consequences if left untreated. There is a higher chance of certain complications including lung infections, pressure ulcers and blood clots after an open operation. There would also be predictably more discomfort and a longer hospital stay.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Fatigue** (common): After any general anesthesia, fatigue is very common. Fatigue may last days, or in some circumstances, weeks.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Dehydration** (uncommon): I understand that I will contact my surgeon if I am not tolerating liquids. Dehydration is rare; Electrolyte abnormalities are also rare.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Medication problems** (common): I understand that I will have to monitor my post-operative medication doses closely with the doctors that have prescribed them. My surgeon will help if necessary. Examples of common medication problems include lightheadedness from too high a dose of high blood pressure medication and too low a blood sugar from excessive diabetic medication. I agree to work closely with my primary care doctor to regulate my medication.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Return to work**: I understand that although many patients can return to work within one to two weeks, rare patients may require a longer recovery. Neither my surgeon nor Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom MedicalGroup are responsible for financial difficulties due to lost work time.

### **Risks in the first month**

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Stricture** (occurs): Any stomach surgery can lead to internal scarring which is called a stricture. This scarring is diagnosed by the intolerance to solid foods after surgery. A stricture can be treated by endoscopic balloon dilation. Under sedation, a scope (1/2-inch diameter tube with a camera) is placed through the mouth and into the stomach pouch. The stricture is then dilated with a balloon. This is sometimes repeated several times over a few weeks. Only my surgeons or gastroenterologists cleared by my surgeons, should perform this procedure. My surgeon is not responsible for complications that result from the performance of a balloon dilation unless performed by my surgeon. Stricture can also occur months to years after surgery.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Ulcer** (very rare): An ulcer can cause pain, bleed or even cause a perforation. Ulcers are more common in patients who take medications such as Aspirin, Advil®, Motrin®, Aleve®, Ibuprofen, or other drugs classified as NSAIDS. Even Aspirin, Celebrex®, and Vioxx® can cause ulcers when used for prolonged periods of time. Also, patients who smoke are at higher risk for development of an ulcer. Because of the risk of ulcer, I agree that I will not take any medication classified as an NSAID for more than 1 week at a time without discussing with my surgeon. I also agree and take full responsibility to quit smoking. Ulcers can also occur months to years after surgery.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Fatigue** (common): After any general anesthesia, fatigue is very common. Fatigue may last days, or in some circumstances, weeks.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Dehydration** (uncommon): I understand that I will contact my surgeon if I am not tolerating liquids. Dehydration is rare; electrolyte abnormalities are also rare.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Medication Problems** (common): I understand that I will have to monitor my post-operative doses closely with the doctors that have prescribed them. My surgeon will help if necessary. Examples of common medication problems include: lightheadedness from too high a dose of blood pressure medication and to low a blood sugar from excessive diabetic medication. I agree to work closely with my primary care doctor to regulate my medication.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Return to Work** : I understand that although many patients can return to work within one to two weeks, rare patients may require a longer recovery. Neither my surgeon nor Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group are responsible for financial difficulties due to lost work time.

### **Late Complications**

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Osteoporosis** (unknown): Calcium deficiency may occur years after a gastric sleeve resection. This is a difficult diagnosis to make until weakness of the bones has already developed. Currently it is best to measure calcium levels and the PTH level (parathyroid hormone). I understand that I am expected to take calcium supplements and supplemental Vitamin D for life after this operation.

- Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Iron Deficiency Anemia** (common): Since iron is not as easily absorbed after a gastric sleeve resection, iron supplements are generally recommended to prevent anemia. Serious complications can occur with severe anemia. Iron stores can be measured by blood tests and should be performed annually.
- Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **B vitamin deficiencies** (uncommon): Deficiencies in Thiamine, Niacin, B12 and other have been reported. These B vitamin deficiencies are very rare. Some B vitamin deficiencies can cause irreversible neurological damage. All patients are recommended to take a multivitamin supplement for 3 months after this operation. Sometimes, additional B vitamin supplements are also required. I understand that it is important to be evaluated regularly for vitamin deficiencies after surgery.
- Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Internal Hernia** (rare-common): Some patients may develop a twist in their intestines after this operation. This twist can cause intermittent and/or severe abdominal pain and can be rarely fatal. These symptoms may occur any time after surgery. X-ray tests almost never show the abnormality. Only a qualified bariatric surgeon is trained to diagnose and treat this problem. If I develop abdominal pain after my gastric sleeve resection, I will notify my bariatric surgeons.
- Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Gallbladder problems** (occur): I understand that I may develop gallstones after surgery. If I develop gallstones after surgery, serious problems and even death may occur.
- Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Weight regain**: Weight regain may occur, especially with “grazing” behavior or excessive sweet intake. The gastric sleeve resection is a powerful tool; however, it can be beaten. Constantly eating foods such as chips and nuts or other high calorie snacks will result in less than expected weight loss or even weight regain.
- Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Unforeseen problems**: Although this procedure has been performed for many years, there may be long-term problems not known at this time.
- Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Pregnancy**: Women who were infertile may become fertile after their operation. This is due to improvements in hormone balances. I understand that I will need to use birth control to prevent unexpected pregnancies after this procedure. The risks associated with pregnancy in an obese person is generally higher than a non-obese person. There is no significant data to suggest that the risks of pregnancy are greater, either to the mother or child, after gastric sleeve resection surgery. I agree that before and during pregnancy, I will discuss my nutritional needs with my obstetrician. I will always make sure that I am taking adequate vitamins and minerals throughout pregnancy and while nursing. I absolve Blossom Bariatrics/ Blossom Medical Group of any responsibility of complications of pregnancy as complications may occur with any pregnancy and there is no definitive means to prove any complication was due solely to the gastric band.
- Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **I agree not to get pregnant for 18 months after a gastric sleeve resection surgery. The safety of pregnancy is NOT established for patients during periods of rapid weight loss. SERIOUS, life-threatening complications may occur. I take full responsibility for birth control during this time period.**
- Initial \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I may not be able to breast-feed during periods of rapid weight loss. If I am currently breast-feeding, I plan to wean my child before undergoing weight loss surgery.
- Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Depression**: Although most people experience improvements in their mood, some will have worsening states of depression. Weight loss is not a cure-all for all psychological problems. It is my responsibility to seek psychological help when necessary. I understand that post-operative depression may occur.
- Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Marital problems**: Psychological factors including post-operative depression, or possibly a reaction to the stress of surgery, are possible. Family members may also experience these stresses. Significant weight loss may result in marital strain as one person develops changes in their self-esteem. Jealousy and other unpredictable consequences to weight loss may occur. Neither my surgeon nor Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group are responsible for any marital difficulties that may occur.
- Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Temporary hair loss**: Hair loss occurs in many people after a weight loss operation. Hair generally grows back. There are no proven supplements to alter hair loss.
- Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **Unlisted complications**: I understand that it is impossible to list every complication possible during and after this procedure. I agree that my surgeon has disclosed the most significant complications that may occur.
- Initial \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that unforeseen events may occur that would result in the last minute cancellation or postponement of my operation. My surgeon will only cancel my operation in the case of emergency conflicts or if it is my best interest for safety. Neither my surgeon nor Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group are financially responsible for any costs incurred by rescheduling my operation for any reason. If I live out of town (>50 miles away), I plan on staying in the area immediately after the operation until cleared for travel by my surgeon. However, if I cancel my surgery within 24 hours of scheduled start time due to a change of heart, I may be responsible for any incurred costs.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that my surgeon may or may not decide to digitally record or photograph portions of my operation. I give permission for my surgeon and Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group to use these materials when obtained for whatever purposes they feel fit as long as no identifying images, names or labels are used. My surgeon and Blossom Bariatrics/Medical Group may also take pictures post-operatively to document my weight loss progress. My surgeon and Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group may use these images for whatever purposes they see fit. (cross out this last statement if you disagree)

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ I am responsible for fully understanding all the fees that I may incur. **Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group has no responsibility or control over the billing and financial obligations related to my hospital.** Blossom Bariatrics/ Blossom Medical Group is not responsible for predicting my hospital charges. I take full responsibility to understand all potential hospital costs. If complications of surgery or significant modifications of surgery occur during or anytime after the planned operation, I understand that additional, significant, professional fees may apply.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ **I plan on following all post-operative visits recommended by my surgeon.** I plan on obtaining all tests requested by my surgeon. I will abide by all nutritional supplements/recommendations that my surgeon prescribes. If Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group ever ceases to exist, I take responsibility to find an appropriate physician to monitor my life-long follow-up. If I leave the area I take responsibility in finding appropriate follow-up.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ I understand that Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group does not provide for psychological support and that it is my responsibility to seek psychological help if needed.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ I agree to fully read all and follow all of the diet protocols and discharge instructions.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ My surgeon has the right in rare cases to discharge me from his practice if I am not compliant with all medical instructions. This determination is fully at the discretion of my surgeon.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Bariatric Surgery is a vast discipline. There is no way that my surgeon or Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group can teach me everything about these procedures. There is no way that my surgeon or Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group can predict all possible outcomes. This consent is not meant to be all inclusive. Complications or problems may arise that were not specifically addressed.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ I have been offered the opportunity to discuss results of this procedure with others who have had the procedure done previously through the support group, the Internet and other resources. I understand that the Center for Advanced Weight Loss administers support group meetings at least once a month. My surgeon strongly believes that support groups are an excellent method to improve long-term outcome. I take responsibility for attending support group meetings.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ I have reviewed all of the information in this consent form with my immediate family. I have clearly stated to my closest family that I fully understand the risks of surgery and believe that the risks are acceptable.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Any conflicting information on the risks and benefits of surgery implied from any other format (internet, brochures, video, and physician interview) is to be superseded by this legal document.

### Consent for Testing

I authorize Dr. Thomas Umbach and any associates or assistants the doctor deems appropriate to perform testing and pathology of tissue samples obtained during my procedure.

I understand that there may be additional fees for these tests, but I am confident that my surgeon feels they are necessary to rule out possible complications.

Biopsies that may be tested include but are not limited to liver, stomach, and esophageal. My surgeon will also repair a hiatal hernia if it is discovered that I have a need to complete my operation for minimal obstacles. In the instance that the gall bladder or appendix need attention, my surgeon has my permission to conduct necessary procedures. I further understand any abnormalities will be tested for complete care.

The doctor has explained to me that there are risks and possible undesirable consequences associated with any procedure including, but not limited to, blood loss, transfusion reactions, infection, heart complications, blood clots, or loss of use of body part (partial or whole), other neurological injury and/or death. I understand that if I need blood or blood products these carry a risk of contracting HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, or other diseases.

In permitting my doctor to perform the procedure(s), I understand that unforeseen conditions may be revealed that may necessitate change or extension of the original procedure(s) or a different procedure(s) than those already explained to me. I therefore authorize and request that the above-named physician, his assistants, or his designees perform such procedure(s) as necessary and desirable in the exercise of his/her professional judgment.

In the unlikely event that one or more of the above inherent complications may occur, my physician(s) will take appropriate and reasonable steps to help manage the clinical situation and be available to me and my family to address our concerns and questions.

I hereby authorize Blossom Bariatrics and/or Blossom Medical Group to utilize or dispose of removed tissues, parts or organs resulting for the procedure(s) authorized above. I also acknowledge that I will be responsible for additional fees related to these procedures.

By signing below, I certify that I have had an opportunity to ask my doctor all my questions concerning anticipated benefits, material risks, alternative therapies, and risks of those alternatives, and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction  
I have read, or had read to me, the contents of this form and have understood each of the terms to my satisfaction. I have no further questions. I wish to proceed with gastric sleeve resection operation. You must be 18 years old or over to sign. Otherwise your legal guardian must sign the document.

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Mutual Binding Arbitration Agreement

Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

This mutual binding Arbitration Agreement constitutes an integral part of a contract for medical services by and between **Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group/Warm Springs Surgical Center** and Patient who agree to be bound as described hereunder:

1. Any dispute, claim or controversy arising out of or relating to any Consent for Treatment or Agreement or the breach, termination, enforcement, interpretation or validity thereof, including the determination of the scope or applicability of this Arbitration Agreement, shall be determined by arbitration in Clark County, Nevada before one arbitrator with at least 10 years of active litigation experience, unless otherwise directed herein. If the amount claimed is less than \$250,000, the arbitration will be administered by JAMS in accordance with JAMS' Streamlined Arbitration Rules and Procedures. Claims brought under the Streamlined rules will have the damages capped at \$250,000. For claims in excess of \$250,000, the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules and Procedures will apply.

2. This Arbitration Agreement expressly applies to any claims for medical malpractice as defined by Nevada law. Any medical malpractice claims must be arbitrated before a panel of three arbitrators. NRS 41A will apply to any such arbitration proceedings, with the arbitration panel taking the place and stead of the district court. NRS 41A.071 specifically applies to any arbitration proceeding, which requires a malpractice claim to be filed with an affidavit supporting the claims by a medical expert who practices or has practiced in an area that is substantially similar to the type of practice of Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group/Warm Springs Surgical Center. Both parties to this Contract, by entering into it, are giving up their constitutional right to have any such dispute decided in a court of law before a jury, and instead are accepting the use of arbitration.

Within 15 days after the commencement of arbitration, each party shall select one person to act as arbitrator. The parties will communicate their selected arbitrator to the JAMS Case Manager. If a party fails to select an arbitrator within 15 days, JAMS will appoint an arbitrator. The two party-determined arbitrators will select a third arbitrator to serve as panel chair within 30 days of the commencement of the arbitration. The panel must be chaired by an attorney with at least 20 years of active litigation experience or a retired judge from a court having jurisdiction in Nevada. If the arbitrators selected by the parties are unable or fail to agree upon the third arbitrator within the allotted time, the third arbitrator shall be appointed by JAMS in accordance with its rules and the criteria set forth above. All arbitrators shall serve as neutral, independent, and impartial arbitrators.

3. This Arbitration Agreement applies to any claim against Dr. Thomas W. Umbach individually, Blossom Bariatrics and/or Blossom Medical Group, and/or Warm Springs Surgical Center, and/or any employees or contracted staff. This Arbitration Agreement and the rights of the parties in relation to any claims shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Nevada.

4. Judgment on the arbitration award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction. This clause shall not preclude parties from seeking provisional remedies in aid of arbitration from a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

5. The execution of this Mutual Binding Arbitration Agreement shall not be a precondition of the furnishing of medical services by Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group/Warm Springs Surgical Center. This Mutual Binding Arbitration Agreement may be rescinded by written notice from the Patient or Patient's legal representative within 30 days of signature.

6. The Arbitration Agreement shall bind the parties hereto, and the heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns of such parties and newborns. All parties to the arbitration will bear their own attorney's fees and costs, and an equal share of the arbitration fees.

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

(patient/parent/legal guardian/legal representative)

**If signed by other than patient, indicate relationship:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Assignment of Insurance Payments*

Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group bills your insurance as a courtesy for all in network and out of network policies. Occasionally the insurance company will send payment directly to the patient. If this does happen with your policy, simply sign the check "Pay to the order of Blossom Bariatrics" then you sign underneath. Be sure to send a copy of all correspondence that comes with it as well.

I understand and acknowledge that I have a legal obligation to pay for the services I have received or will receive from Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group.

I also acknowledge that if my health insurance company covers the medical procedures I have received or will be receiving, that payment from my health insurance company should be paid to Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group. ***Under no circumstances am I entitled to receive and keep any payments from my health insurance company. These payments are rightfully owed to Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group in payment for the services I have received from them.***

THEREFORE, I hereby assign to Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group any and all sums of money which I have received to date or which I may receive in the future from my health insurance company.

I HEREBY authorize and instruct \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company, Policy # \_\_\_\_\_ to pay all sums which it has paid or would pay to me directly to Blossom Bariatrics/Blossom Medical Group at the following address:

Blossom Bariatrics  
7385 S. Pecos Rd.  
Suite 101  
Las Vegas, NV 89120

This Assignment is to remain in full force and effect for all claims submitted and all payments made from the date this Assignment is executed below until it is revoked in writing.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Blossom Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Blossom Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_