



FAQ

The 32BJ Health Fund Centers of Excellence (COE) Will Offer \$0 Joint Replacement and Weight Loss (Bariatric) Surgery Starting January 1, 2022

Q. What are the 32BJ Health Fund Centers of Excellence (COE) for Joint Replacement and Weight Loss (Bariatric) Surgery?

A. The Health Fund has partnered with specialty hospitals in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Florida to give you and your eligible dependents access to high-quality, affordable joint replacement and weight loss (bariatric) surgery.

Starting January 1, if you live **within 50 miles** of a COE, you **must** have the surgery performed by a *COE doctor (surgeon)* at a *COE hospital*. If you go anywhere else, your surgery will *not* be covered, and *you'll have to pay 100% of the bill—which could end up costing you tens of thousands of dollars.*

Here's how it works:

- You'll pay your **regular copays** for the appointments you have with your surgeon before the surgery, including video appointments.
- You'll have a **\$0 copay** for your hospital admission, your surgery and for specific services after your surgery, like follow-up visits with your surgeon within 30 days after you are discharged from the hospital. The Health Fund will pay all of those expenses.
- *For joint replacement surgery:* The Health Fund will pay for up to 10 physical therapy visits at a free-standing facility within the first 50 days after you are discharged from the hospital. (A "free-standing facility" is a facility that is *not* affiliated with a hospital.)

At a 32BJ Health Fund COE, you can expect:

- An expert and experienced team of medical specialists
- Coordinated care from start to finish
- The latest treatments and technology
- Top-notch, no-cost medical services

- Extras like video doctor visits (where available), free transportation to and from surgery—and more

Q. How do I find a COE doctor and a COE hospital?

A. To find a COE doctor and a COE hospital that are conveniently located near you:

- 1 **Click on** [Find a COE doctor and a COE hospital for joint replacement surgery](#) **or** [Find a COE doctor and a COE hospital for weight loss \(bariatric\) surgery](#).
- 2 **Call Member Services** at **800-551-3225** to find out if there's a COE within 50 miles of your home or to schedule an appointment.

Q. I'm/my dependent's planning to have *bariatric* surgery in early 2022. What should I/they do?

A. Because preparing for bariatric surgery can take several months, it is important to call **Health Services** at **866-230-3225** *right away* if you're/your eligible dependent's getting ready to have bariatric surgery in early 2022. Our Health Services Patient Advocates are here to help you, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 5 pm.

Q. What if I'm/my dependent's thinking about having *joint replacement* surgery in early 2022?

A. Joint replacement surgery can generally be scheduled more quickly than bariatric surgery. If you live within 50 miles of a COE, you *must* have your joint replacement surgery performed by a *COE doctor* at a *COE hospital*:

- 1 **Click on** [Find a COE doctor and a COE hospital for joint replacement surgery](#).
- 2 **Call Member Services** at **800-551-3225** to find out if there's a COE within 50 miles of your home or to schedule an appointment.

Q. Can I still have my surgery with a COE doctor at a COE hospital even if I live *more than 50 miles away*?

A. Yes. You are always welcome to have your surgery performed by any COE doctor at any COE hospital:

1 Click on [Find a COE doctor and a COE hospital for joint replacement surgery](#) or [Find a COE doctor and a COE hospital for weight loss \(bariatric\) surgery](#).

2 Call Member Services at 800-551-3225 to find out if there's a COE within 50 miles of your home or to schedule an appointment.

Q. Do I have to pick a COE doctor at the COE hospital that is *closest* to my home?

A. No. For example, if you live in Connecticut, but you would prefer to have your surgery in Florida, you can—*as long as your surgery is performed by a COE doctor at a COE hospital*:

1 Click on [Find a COE doctor and a COE hospital for joint replacement surgery](#) or [Find a COE doctor and a COE hospital for weight loss \(bariatric\) surgery](#).

2 Call Member Services at 800-551-3225 to find out if there's a COE within 50 miles of your home or to schedule an appointment.

Q. I live in Massachusetts, and my eligible dependent—who is at school in New York—has to have bariatric/joint replacement surgery. Can they have the surgery with a COE doctor at a COE hospital that's close to their school?

A. Yes. To find a COE doctor at a COE hospital that's most convenient for your eligible dependent who's away from home:

1 Click on [Find a COE doctor and a COE hospital for joint replacement surgery](#) or [Find a COE doctor and a COE hospital for weight loss \(bariatric\) surgery](#).

2 Call Member Services at 800-551-3225 to find out if there's a COE within 50 miles of your home or to schedule an appointment.