

University of Vermont Medical
Center

BARIATRIC & GENERAL
SURGERY

Williston - Blair Park

353 Blair Park Rd
Williston, VT 05495
PHONE 802-847-3330
FAX 802-847-0733

Wasef Abujaish, MD FACS
FASMBBS

Patrick Forgione, MD FACS
FASMBBS

Bruce Chutter-Cressy PA

Patient copy – please keep for your records

Thank you for your interest in the Bariatric Surgery Program. We are an accredited bariatric surgery program through the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS). Please see below for information that will be helpful as you start this process:

- We have strict policies related to use of nicotine (e.g. cigarettes, chewing tobacco, patches, lozenges, vaping) and recreational marijuana. Any products consumed through smoking and vaping (inhalation) are prohibited.
 - You will be required to **stop** use of any of the above substances for 30 days prior to the phone interview and not resume for the length of the program. The goal is quitting permanently.
 - You can complete and return this questionnaire but will need to call our office at (802) 847-3330 once you have **stopped use for 30 days**.
 - We reserve the right to test your blood for prohibited substances at any time throughout the program.
- You will be required to sign an attendance policy.
 - You will be **at risk for discharge** from the program if you no show or cancel, with less than 24 hours notice, twice or cancel three times.
 - This program requires a **major time commitment** due to multiple appointments for testing, classes, and monthly visits.
- It is very important that we are able to contact you.
 - **MyChart** is one of the most effective ways to communicate with you. If you have not already done so please sign up.
 - When you are communicating with the office, please provide a working phone number with voicemail and please return calls as promptly as possible.
- You will receive a program outline when you are scheduled for the behavioral health evaluation.
 - The typical program length from your first meeting with the surgeon to surgery depends on:
 - Requirements established by your insurance company
 - Our program's presurgical requirements that will be reviewed in detail when you start the program
- You will be required to attend two classes via Zoom or in person.
Participation is required.

- If you attend via Zoom you must have your **camera turned on** and give your full and undivided attention.
- You will receive a good deal of program information and educational guidelines in the form of handouts. **Please save all handouts** for future reference.
- Once you have completed all of the pre-surgery requirements we will contact your insurance company for authorization of surgery.
 - It can take **7-14 days** for us to receive a response and you may receive a letter before we do.
 - You **will not** receive a surgery date until we have received approval from your insurance company. Once we have received approval, we will contact you to discuss possible dates.

Please return these forms at your earliest convenience. Once we have received the completed forms we will contact you with details for the intro class.

X

By signing this document you are acknowledging and agreeing to the above information.