



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UPPER CHESAPEAKE BARIATRIC SURGERY PROGRAM RECEIVES LEVEL I ACCREDITATION

Havre de Grace, MD—The Upper Chesapeake Bariatric Surgery Program has been accredited as a Level I facility by the Bariatric Surgery Center Network (BSCN) Accreditation Program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). This designation means that the Upper Chesapeake Bariatric Surgery Program has met the essential criteria that ensures it is fully capable of supporting a bariatric surgery care program and that its institutional performance meets the requirements outlined by the ACS BSCN Accreditation Program.

Established by the American College of Surgeons in 2005 the ACS Bariatric Surgery Accreditation Program provides confirmation that a bariatric surgery center has demonstrated its commitment to providing the highest quality care for its bariatric surgery patients. Accredited bariatric surgery centers provide not only the hospital resources necessary for optimal care of morbidly obese patients, but also the support and resources that are necessary to address the entire spectrum of care and needs of bariatric patients, from the prehospital phase through the postoperative care and treatment process.

The Upper Chesapeake Bariatric Surgery Program offers all the components of its program in one location for the convenience of its patients. “Our multi-disciplinary medical approach is based on our belief that success after weight loss surgery is dependent upon a commitment to lifelong lifestyle changes,” says Christine Bauer, MSN, RN, Director of Bariatric Surgery at Upper Chesapeake Health. “Our team of

professionals has expertise in clinical care, mental health, nutrition, and exercise. We also offer monthly support group meetings giving weight loss surgery patients an excellent opportunity to discuss their various personal and professional issues.”

The Upper Chesapeake Bariatric Program at Harford Memorial Hospital underwent an on-site verification by experienced bariatric surgeons, who reviewed the center’s structure, process, and quality of data. The ACS believes it important to extend its quality initiatives to accrediting bariatric surgery centers so that it can assist the public in identifying those facilities that provide optimal surgical care for patients who undergo this surgical procedure.

In the United States, more than 11 million people suffer from severe obesity and an estimated 93 million people are obese. The co-morbidities associated with obesity range from diabetes and heart disease to certain types of cancers. Bariatric surgical procedures have been shown to reduce obesity, improve mortality and decrease the health risks from chronic diseases such as cardiomyopathy and diabetes. For these reasons, the ACS BSCN Accreditation Program will recognize those facilities that implement defined ACS BSCN standards of care, document their outcomes and participate in regular reviews to evaluate their bariatric surgical programs.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has also recognized the Upper Chesapeake Bariatric Surgery Program. Individuals of all ages with Medicare coverage who have been diagnosed with health problems associated with obesity can now have their weight loss surgery performed at the Upper Chesapeake Bariatric Surgery Program. Medicare coverage has been limited to procedures performed in facilities certified by the American College of Surgeons or the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery.

The Upper Chesapeake Bariatric Surgery Program offers Laparoscopic Roux en Y Gastric Bypass, Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding and Sleeve Gastrectomy. For

more information about the Program, call 443-843-6360 or go online to upperchesapeakebariatricsurgery.org.

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