



National Obesity Audit (NOA): Dashboard guidance for the public

NHS England National Obesity Audit main page.
<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/national-obesity-audit>

Introduction

The National Obesity Audit (NOA) is funded by NHS England and began in 2021. We have prepared an introduction to the National Obesity Audit (NOA) project for patients and the public, which is available [here](#) and provides a general background to the audit.

This document is a specific guide to one of the dashboards that is published by the NOA – the NOA Bariatric Surgical Procedures Dashboard. This was first published in 2022 and is updated regularly with the latest data available.

What information is being presented?

The information is data about people receiving bariatric surgery in the NHS from 2018-2023 (England only) with figures showing;

1. Number of people receiving bariatric surgery
2. Procedure types
3. Demographic breakdowns by; age, deprivation, ethnicity, gender and severe mental illness
4. Average distance travelled to treatment
5. Length of stay at the hospital by procedure type

The dashboard makes use of data already collected from hospitals.

Purpose of this guidance

This short guide aims to help the public understand how to use the dashboard. It includes a glossary and a list of bariatric procedure types at the back.

NOA User Panel

As part of the NOA, HQIP is working with a panel of service users and carers who have experience of overweight and obesity. They have co-produced this guide.

User Panel voice

Members of the public who are interested in understanding the state of bariatric surgeries in England can access the dashboard to gather information and insight.



Guide to using the dashboard

Pages 1-3 of the dashboard display instruction and definitions.

Pages 4-9 takes you to presentations of the data broken down by organisation type, Integrated Care Board¹ level and hospital level. Tabs on each page allows you to select the year from 2017-2023.

The following images are screenshots from each of those pages from the dashboards to help you understand the graphs and what they tell you.

At the end of this guide is a [list of bariatric surgery types](#) and a [glossary](#).

To feedback or comment on this guide please contact kim.rezel@hqip.org.uk

User Panel voice

I found it quite easy to use and it was quite good in the fact that the procedures were explained to me (Key definitions) and the navigation of the actual dashboard was really good and the font was big as I have issues with reading.

I am in the Northwest London area and I clicked on the trust there on the dashboard. I could see the number of operations and the different types of bariatric surgeries that are available and how they had increased or decreased which I thought was really good. What was interesting was how the these were dispersed throughout the country. I don't really understand why it's more in some places and more others. But essentially what I thought was the dashboard itself was very helpful.

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Instruction page

This is the home page for the bariatric surgical procedures dashboard.

The left hand side tabs indicate the different pages of the dashboard. Tabs 1-3 are information about the NOA and key definitions.

National Obesity Audit - Bariatric Surgical Procedures Dashboard
Last Updated: 13th July 2023

NHS England

Home Page | [About:](#)

The National Obesity Audit (NOA) was launched in April 2022 to bring together comparable data from the different types of adult and children's weight management services across England in order to drive improvement in quality of care available to those living with overweight and obesity in England. NOA has been established by NHS England as part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP). See [National Obesity Audit](#) for more information.

This is the 4th release of the NOA dashboard and contains final data for 2017-18 to 2021-22 and provisional data for Q1 - Q4 2022/23 on people receiving bariatric surgical procedures. All data is sourced from Hospital Episode Statistics, NHS England. Further details on the methodology and data quality are on the [publication page](#). As the methodology used to derive these figures has been newly developed with clinical input, these numbers should be viewed as developmental until we further refine the methodology with users and stakeholders.

Note: Data for 2017-18 to 2021-22 and Q1 - Q4 2022-23 are presented at National, NHS England Region, Integrated Care Board, Sub-Integrated Care Board and Provider level. Where totals are presented for England, Regional, ICB & SubICB, these are aggregate totals of the providers that submitted information. For trend purposes CCGs, predecessor organisations (i.e. Clinical Commissioning Groups) have been mapped to the latest [Integrated Care System](#) structure in the time series based on latest boundary changes as at 1 July 2022.

Key Links:
NHS England is not responsible for the content of third party sites.

[British Obesity & Metabolic Surgery Society - Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery](#)

[NHS.UK - Weight loss surgery](#)

National Obesity Audit metadata:

For further information on the construction of the data measures in this dashboard, please see the [metadata documentation](#)

If you have problems or questions

If you need help with this dashboard, or if it isn't working properly, please contact enquiries@nhsdigital.nhs.uk or call **0300 303 5678**.

We are open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, except on public holidays.

This is a developing dashboard – your feedback will help us to improve it. [Click here to complete a short survey.](#)

< 1 of 9 >

Contact details are available if you have any issues using the dashboard.

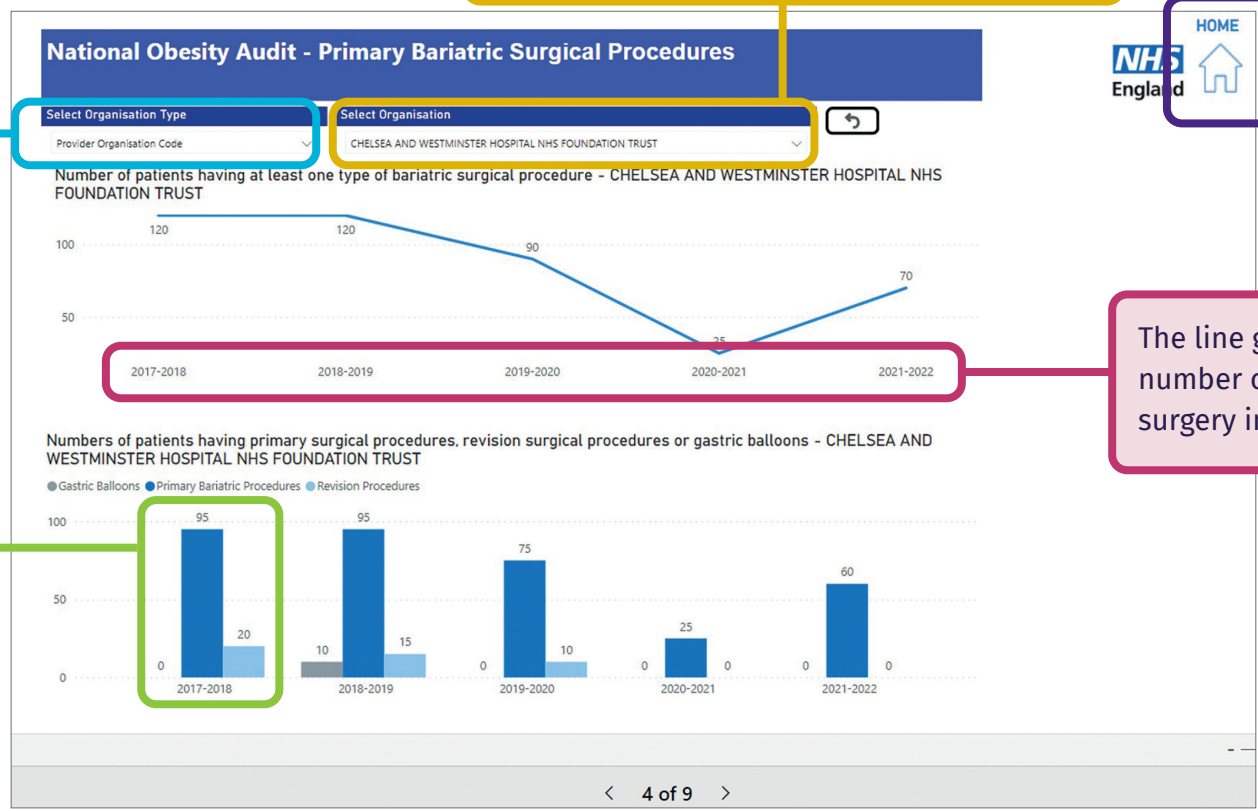
Bariatric Surgical Procedures

Tab 4 shows the numbers of patients having primary surgical procedures in each hospital.

Select the hospital of your choice from here.

Select Provider Organisation Code to access hospital levels in the next drop down box.

Press on the house to return to the homepage.



The bar graph breaks down the number of patients into three categories; gastric balloons; primary bariatric procedures and revision procedures.

The line graph shows the number of patients having surgery in each year.

Integrated Care Board Level

Tab 5 from the homepage allows you to see numbers of patients who had bariatric surgery by ICB level.

Integrated Care Board – A statutory NHS organisation which is responsible for developing a plan for meeting the health needs of the population. You can find your local Board using this link - <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/find-your-local-integrated-care-board/>

You can choose which year you would like to view.

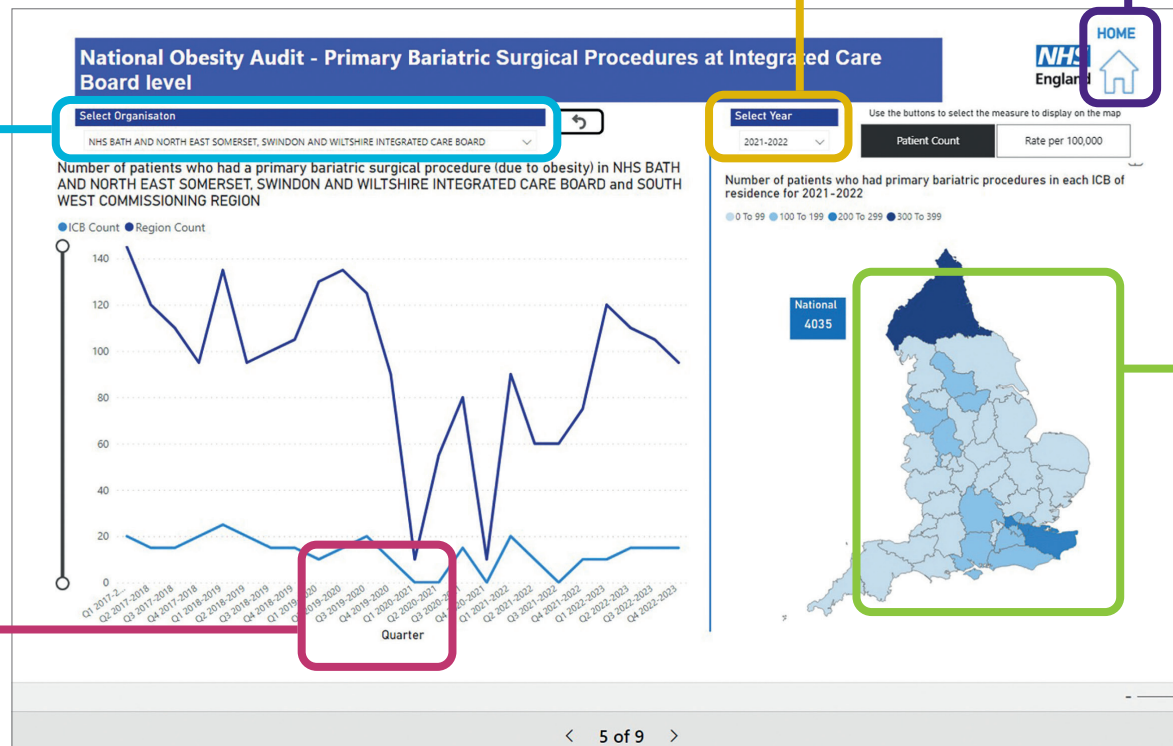
Press on the house to return to the homepage.

This is where you can choose your local ICB.

This graph breaks down each year into quarters. Move the mouse into a point on the figure and a box will show you the local and regional number.

This map of England is broken down into ICB levels, you are able to hover over each ICB and see the number of patients who have had surgery.

Q1/Q2/Q3/Q4
Quarter 1 = April-June period
Quarter 2 = July-September period
Quarter 3 = October-December period
Quarter 4 = January-March period



Procedure Types

Tab 6 shows the percentage breakdown by the different procedure types in each organisation from years 2019-2023.

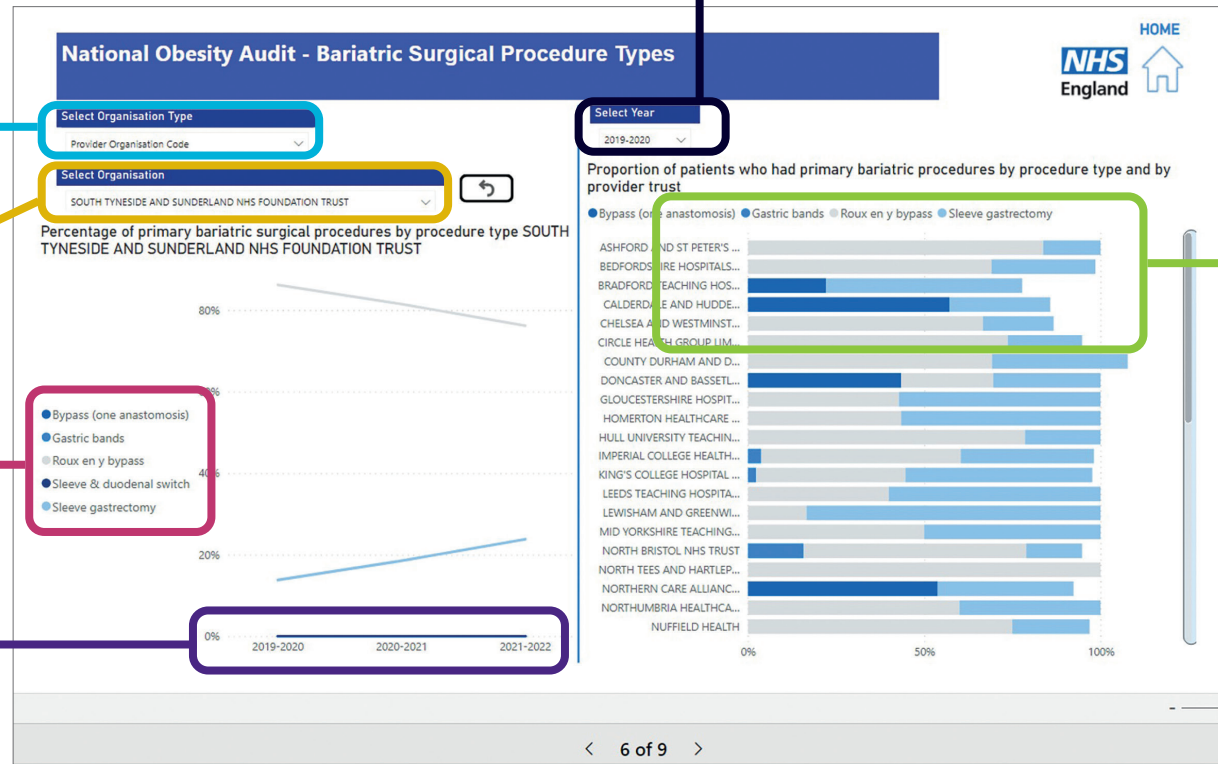
Select type of organisation and to look for hospital information choose Provider Organisation Code.

Select the hospital from this drop down box.

The list of the different bariatric procedure types with a colour code.

The line graph is a percentage breakdown of the total number of procedures by year.

Select the year to view.



This bar graph shows each hospital's percentage breakdown of procedure types. Hover over the hospital to get the exact percentage.

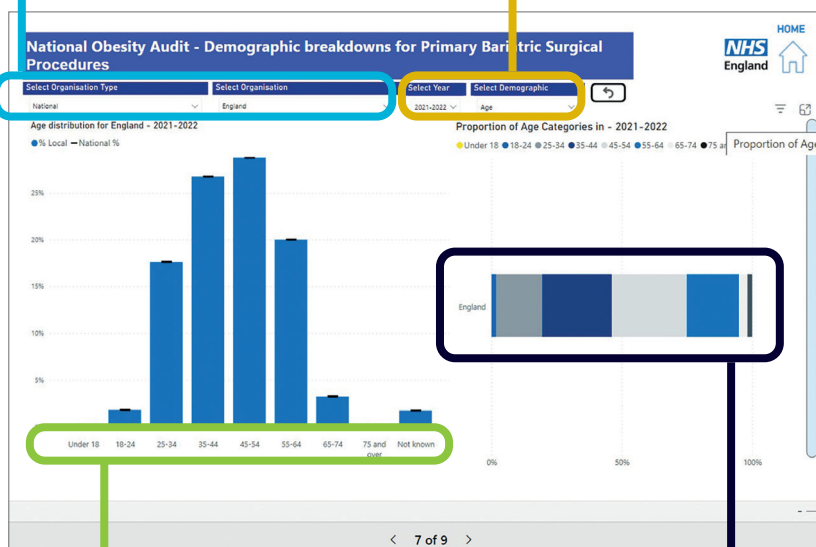
[Access to dashboard >](#)

Demographic breakdowns

Tab 7 links through to this page that shows the demographics of patients who have had bariatric procedures by Age; Deprivation; Ethnicity; Gender; Severe Mental Illness (SMI) in each organisation.

Select your hospital of interest here.

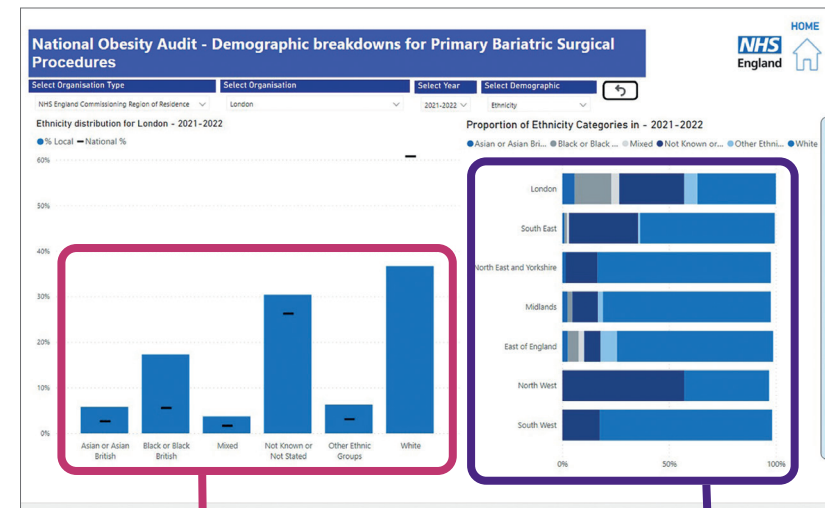
These tabs allow you to select a year and then demographic type.



Once a demographic type is selected this graph shows the breakdown (e.g 18-24, 25-34, 35-44 and so on)

This bar graph is another way of showing the demographic breakdown.

This screenshot shows the breakdown of people using the service is this area by different ethnicities.



The graph on the left shows the numbers overall.

The bar graph on the right shows how this is broken down in the individual hospitals in that area.



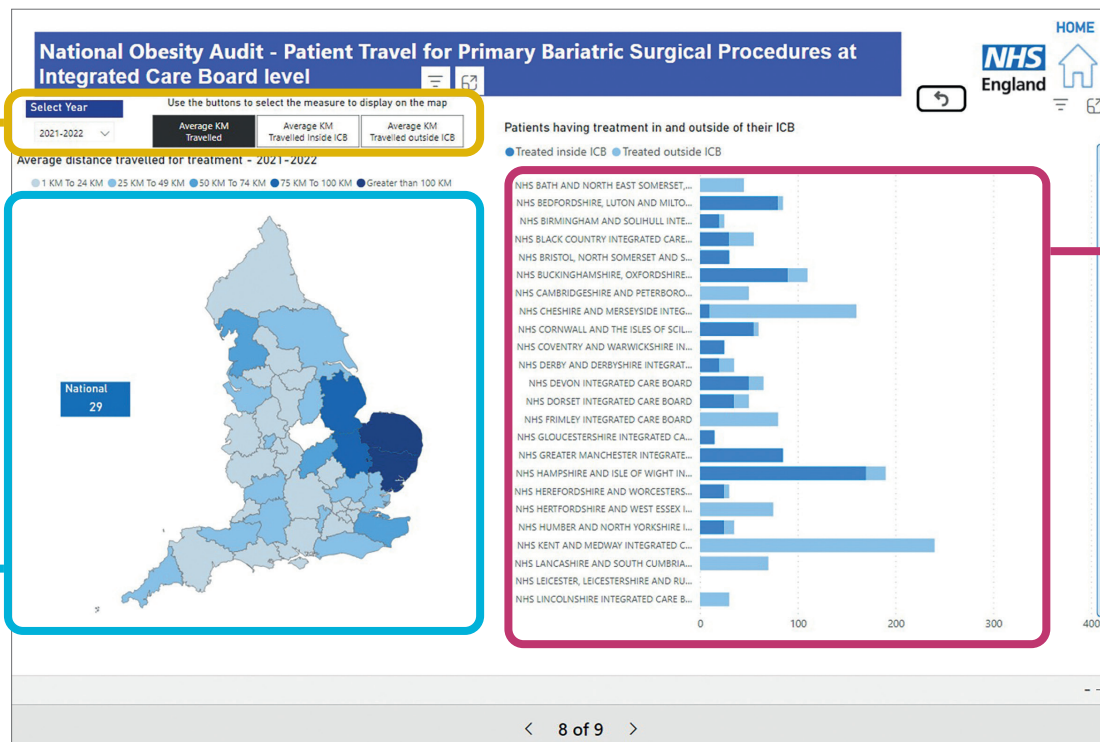
Patient Travel at ICB level

This page (tab 8) shows the average distance travelled for treatment both inside and outside of your ICB.

Select year and in which measurement you would like to see the distance travelled for treatment.

Overall average distance travelled in kilometres
Average distance travelled inside your ICB
Average distance travelled outside your ICB

Click on a section which is divided by ICBs and the corresponding bar graph will show each hospitals figures.



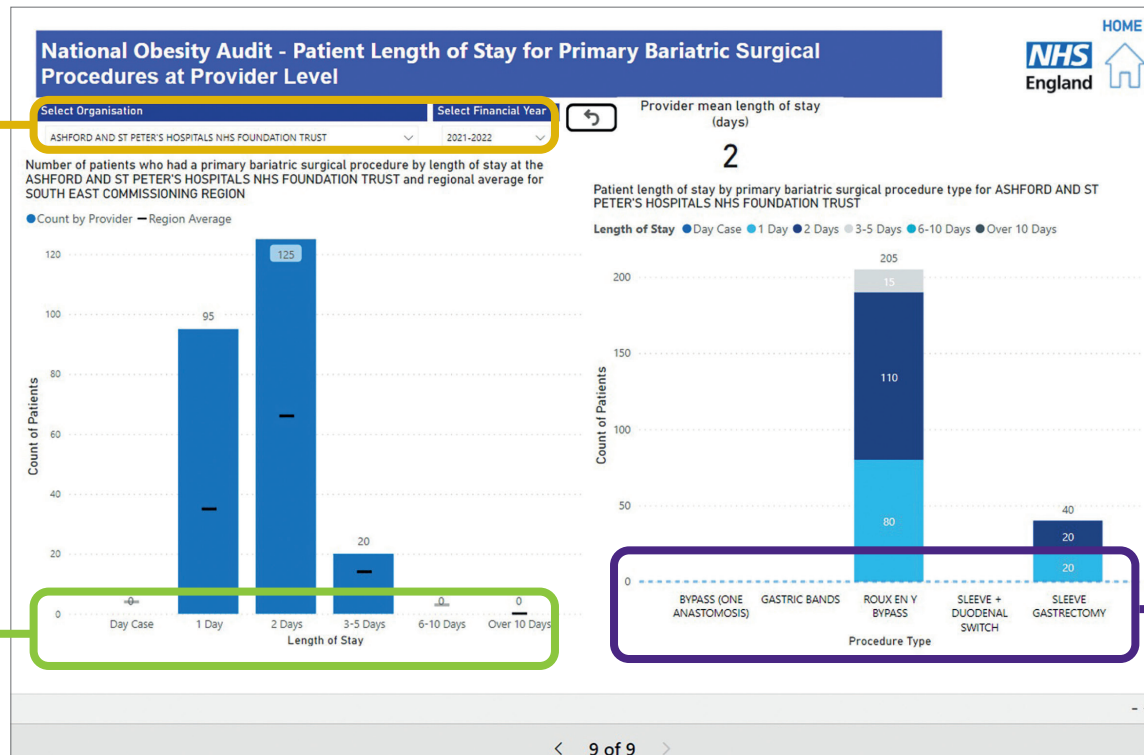
This bar graph allows you to click on each bar and see the number of patients having treatment in and outside your ICB.

Patient length of stay

This page (tab 9) shows the number of patients and how long they stayed in hospital for the procedure - years 2017-2022.

Select hospital and year using these dropdown boxes.

This graph shows the amount of patients and the amount of days they stayed in hospital for the procedure.



The second graph breaks this down further by procedure type.



Bariatric procedure types²

Bariatric - The field of bariatrics focuses on and treats those who have obesity to promote weight loss and increase overall health with diet, exercise, and psychological therapy. When thinking of bariatrics, you may think of bariatric surgery, which is also known as metabolic or weight-loss surgery.³

Bariatric surgery or weight loss surgery is sometimes used as a treatment for people who are living with obesity.

Primary bariatric procedures – types of surgery that involve making changes to your digestive system to help you lose weight – first time surgery.

Revision procedures – A procedure to change, maintain or repair a previous weight-loss surgery.

Gastric balloons – A soft balloon filled with air or salt water placed into the stomach using a thin tube to pass down the throat (gastroscopy). This is a temporary (maximum 6 months) non-surgical weight loss procedure which will reduce appetite.

Gastric bypass - A procedure which involves stapling the lower part of the stomach (Antrum) to create a long pouch, from which the small intestine is then connected. The rest of the stomach remains, however no food will reach it. This restricts the amount of food that can be eaten and the by-passing of the small bowel results in a reduction food absorption.

Sleeve gastrectomy - The surgery involves removing 75% of the stomach, resulting in a smaller stomach. The rest of the gastrointestinal tracts remains untouched. The new stomach holds a considerably smaller volume than the normal stomach and helps to significantly reduce the amount of food that can be consumed.

Gastric band - A gastric band is a band placed around the stomach, creating a small pouch towards the top. The band is connected to a small device placed under the skin (usually near the middle of the chest). This is so the band can be tightened post-surgery. The band will usually be tightened for the first time about 4 to 6 weeks after surgery. As a result of the

small pouch, it takes less food to fill the pouch therefore reducing appetite.

Roux en y Gastric Bypass - The surgery involves stapling across the stomach to create a small pouch (size of an egg), the 'new' stomach. The rest of the stomach remains; however no food will reach it. The small intestine is re-plumbed creating a short cut from the new stomach to the mid-part of the small intestine, bypassing the first part of the small intestine. The rerouting of the food stream alters gut signals, leading to suppressed appetite, improved blood sugar levels and reduction in food absorption.

Sleeve & duodenal switch - Combines qualities of both the sleeve gastrectomy and the gastric bypass. The stomach is stapled and the outer 80% is removed thus reducing its size. The intestines are re-plumbed so that food passes from the stomach into the distal part of the small intestine (further down than with a gastric bypass). The surgery works by altering gut signals that regulate appetite and blood sugar.

² <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/weight-loss-surgery/types/>

³ <https://www.pennmedicine.org/updates/blogs/metabolic-and-bariatric-surgery-blog/2019/april/what-does-bariatric-mean>



Glossary

Clinical audit – a way to find out if healthcare is being provided in line with standards and lets people know how the service compares with others.

NCAPOP – National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme – Projects that are commissioned by HQIP - <https://www.hqip.org.uk/>

Dashboard – a visual tool that displays data in a more accessible and interactive way for users

Provisional – an early cut of the data that remains to be finalised (and published as final data later)

Hospital Episode Statistics – hospital admissions data submitted to NHS England by each hospital Trust

Methodology – an explanation of methods used to gather information

Data quality – this examines the coverage and completeness of data submitted. This also looks at the validity of submitted data.

Integrated Care Board – A statutory NHS organisation which is responsible for developing a plan for meeting the health needs of the population. You can find your local Board using this link - <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/find-your-local-integrated-care-board/>