

How to get OHIP approval for laparoscopic RY gastric bypass surgery in Montreal by Dr. Christou of Weight Loss Surgery.

Effective January 1, 2009, the OHIP has negotiated a preferred provider agreement with Weight Loss Surgery Inc. (WLS) of Montreal, Quebec as part of the Bariatric Strategy, to increase OHIP eligible Ontario patient access to bariatric surgical services.

In order for Ontario patients to have a laparoscopic RY gastric bypass paid for by OHIP by Dr. Christou in Montreal they must have a letter of approval from OHIP. Once approved, Ontario patients can have their surgery within 4-6 weeks, the time required to properly prepare them for safe surgery. Follow these steps:

1. Contact your physician and ask that he/she determine if you require weight loss surgery. To do so you must have a BMI of over 35 with obesity associated diseases such as type II diabetes *etc.* (see other parts of our web site for qualifications).
2. If you qualify for weight loss surgery you can ask your physician to refer you to your closest assessment center (see list below) to initiate the process for laparoscopic gastric bypass by Dr. Christou in Montreal.
3. You may also contact your closest center yourself.

Ontario Providers of Bariatric Services (Regional Assessment Centers)

Center	Phone Number	Fax Number	Web Site
St. Joseph's HealthCare Hamilton	905-522-1155 Ext 33240	905-521-6152	www.stjoes.ca
Humber River Regional Hospital	416-747-3720	416-747-3731	
Guelph General Hospital	519-837-6440 ext. 2700	519-837-6773	
The Ottawa Hospital The Weight Management Clinic	613- 761-5101	613- 761-5343	www.weightclinic.ca
Toronto Western Hospital (UHN)	416-603-5800 ext. 6145	416-603-5142	www.uhn.ca
Windsor Regional Hospital Regional Bariatric Assessment and Treatment Centre	519-971-9206	519-971-9566	www.wrh.on.ca
Sick Kids Team Obesity Management Program	416-813-5592	416-813-8770	www.sickkids.ca

4. If you or your physician is unable to get a response in due time from any of these centers (they are extremely busy and overloaded) please call the **Service Ontario** Info line at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only) and inform them of the problem and ask for advice.
5. The regional assessment center will assess your eligibility for bariatric surgery, and recommend surgery.
6. If the wait is unacceptable at that particular center (more than 6 months) it is your right to insist that you be referred to Dr. Christou in Montreal.
7. When OHIP approves your application for bariatric surgery with Dr. Christou (Weight Loss Surgery) in Montreal, a decision letter will be sent to Weight Loss Surgery and a copy sent to you and your physician.
8. Once you have your OHIP approval letter you can call Weight Loss Surgery in Montreal **for** instructions as to how to set up a consultation with Dr. Christou. WLS may call you as well.

Weight Loss Surgery, Montreal, Quebec 1-866-263-4414 or 514-843-1531
website: www.weightlossurgery.ca

9. Your physician may also initiate the process to refer you directly for out of Province bariatric surgery (like being sent to the states) by Dr. Christou in Montreal if you cannot get access to the above named centers. Here is the link to the OHIP web site.

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/ohip/outofcountry/us_preferred_providers/bariatric_services.html