



### **Rule 1.6 Bariatric Medicine/Medical Weight Loss Clinics**

- A. A Bariatric Medicine/Medical Weight Loss Clinic is defined as a public or privately owned facility for which 30% or more of the patients are provided a comprehensive weight management treatment program. Advertised medical weight loss must include behavior modification, comprehensive nutritional education, exercise or physical therapy intervention, long-term maintenance programs, dispensing and/or prescribing FDA-approved medications as indicated for weight loss on a monthly basis as part of the patient's treatment plan.
- B. The physician owner/operator of the bariatric medicine/medical weight loss clinic shall register with the MSBML. The form to register is attached hereto (Appendix F). Certificates once issued are not transferable or assignable. Only the primary physician and/or clinic are required to register with the Board. All physicians associated with the clinic whether in the capacity as the owner or as a practitioner should be listed on the application and must also be required to meet all regulations governing the treatment of obesity/medical weight loss. All physicians who are added or removed from the clinic once a certificate is issued must be reported to the MSBML for approval. Each clinic requires a separate certificate.
- C. A bariatric medicine/medical weight loss clinic may not operate in the state of Mississippi without obtaining a certificate from the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure.
- D. Certificates are valid for one year and must be renewed annually along with practitioner's license to practice medicine in the state of Mississippi. There is a 30-day grace period for renewal after which the owner/operator must reapply for an original certificate. The clinic may not continue to operate while the certificate is expired.
- E. If a physician's practice is 30% or greater in bariatric medicine, advertising medical weight loss, or overseeing/collaborating with a nurse practitioner or physician assistant to provide comprehensive treatment of obesity, the physician must have expertise in the field of bariatric medicine with no less than:
  - 1. 100 AMA or AOA Category 1 CME hours in the core-content of bariatric medicine prior to practicing in the specialized field of bariatric medicine/medical weight loss. For any physician who is currently practicing 30% or greater in bariatric medicine or advertising medical weight loss, the physician has 24 months from effective date of this regulation to comply with the initial CME requirement or be board certified in bariatric medicine in order to continue practicing bariatric medicine/medical weight loss in the state of Mississippi. All Category 1 CME in core-content of bariatric medicine should be obtained within a 24 month period.
  - 2. Following the initial 100 Category 1 CME, a physician is required to obtain 30 AMA or AOA Category 1 CME in core-content of bariatric medicine annually in order to continue practicing bariatric medicine and to renew certification with the MSBML.
- F. A Medical Spa facility for which 30% or more of the patients are provided a comprehensive weight management treatment program or advertises medical weight loss to the public must include behavior modification, comprehensive nutritional education, exercise or physical therapy intervention, long-term maintenance programs, the dispensation and/or prescribing of FDA-approved medications as indicated for weight loss on a monthly basis by a physician and/or nurse practitioner/physician assistant being overseen/collaborating to provide comprehensive treatment of obesity is prohibited unless all criteria above are met.