

## Eligibility criteria for gastric bypass for gastro-oesophageal reflux disease

Southern Cross will only reimburse the cost of gastric bypass for gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD) under a member's policy when criteria 1, 2 and 3 below are met for that member:

1. Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease is confirmed by **one** of the following:
  - Endoscopy confirms presence of high-grade oesophagitis (LA grade C or D), biopsy proven Barrett's oesophagus, or peptic stricture.
  - Where endoscopy confirms presence of LA grade B oesophagitis, 48h oesophageal pH monitoring must also confirm acid exposure time >6% on ambulatory pH monitoring or >80 reflux episodes per 24h.
2. Gastroenterologist or vocationally registered specialist performing endoscopy confirms failure of maximal medical therapy and recommends surgical intervention.
3. The gastric bypass for GORD is performed by an Upper GI surgeon who meets **both** of the below criteria:
  - Is an Upper GI surgeon that currently performs the full range of anti-reflux surgery options in the private sector.
  - Participates in the Bariatric Surgery Registry where the member has concomitant obesity.

The cost of gastric bypass for GORD under a member's policy **will not be reimbursed** in the following circumstances:

- Following self-referral to a surgeon.
- Following a primary care referral for weight-loss or bariatric surgery.
- For the revision of, or treatment of complications associated with previous bariatric surgery.
- For the treatment of obesity (except as specifically provided by the [Bariatric surgery for obesity allowance](#)).

Please also ensure you are familiar with all **policy exclusions**, including:

- Acute care
- Congenital conditions
- Cosmetic treatment/procedures
- Health screening
- Treatment of any condition not detrimental to health
- Unapproved healthcare services.

Refer to the relevant policy document for specific conditions and exceptions that apply to these exclusions.