

Medical Director

Dr. Terry Pinson is board certified in general surgery and has special interests in bariatric, gastrointestinal, minimally invasive and advanced laparoscopic surgery. He graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in 1990 and completed his internship and residency at Caraway Methodist Medical Center in Birmingham, Ala., in 1995. Dr. Pinson joined the NMMC medical staff in 1995.

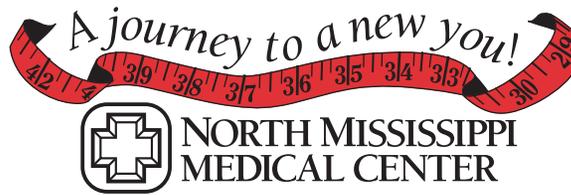


Surgical Procedures

NMMC offers three surgical procedures for weight loss. The most common is Laparoscopic Roux-en-Y Gastric Bypass, which creates a very small upper stomach pouch (less than one ounce) by transecting the stomach. Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Band surgery restricts the size (capacity) of the stomach. Laparoscopic Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy generates weight loss by restricting the amount of food that may be consumed without bypassing the stomach or a portion of the small intestine. Each surgery offers improved health and weight loss, and also helps the patient reach his/her weight loss goal as long as the proper diet and exercise regimen is followed.

The First Step

Free Bariatric Surgery Educational Seminars are held at noon the first Thursday of each month and at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the NMMC Wellness Center, second floor Education Room, 1030 S. Madison St. Please arrive at least 30 minutes early to check in. Attendance is mandatory before the first appointment is scheduled with the Bariatric Clinic.



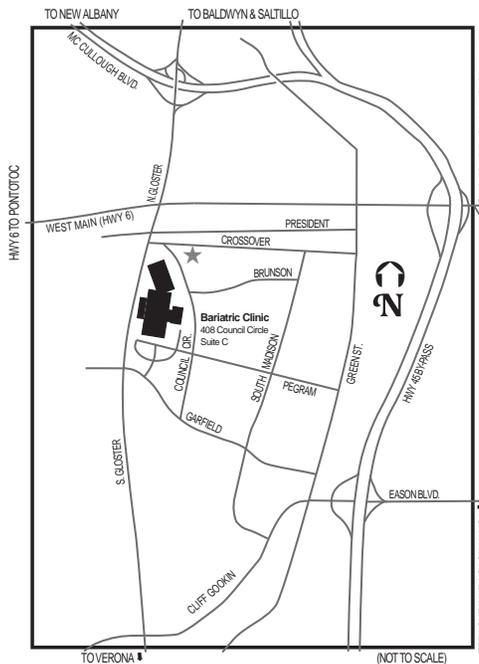
**NORTH MISSISSIPPI
MEDICAL CENTER**

BARIATRIC CENTER

NMMC Bariatric Center
830 South Gloster Street
Tupelo, Mississippi

Bariatric Clinic
408 Council Circle, Suite C
Tupelo, Mississippi
(662) 377-SLIM (7546)
Fax (662) 377-6330
Toll free at 1-866-908-9465

www.nmhs.net/bariatric_center



**NORTH MISSISSIPPI
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BARIATRIC CENTER

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in North Mississippi Medical Center's Bariatric Clinic and Center. Our Bariatric Program offers surgical options as a means for weight loss.

Undergoing bariatric surgery to lose weight is one of the biggest decisions a person can make. Not only will it mean undergoing surgery, but it will also require dedication to a new eating lifestyle. If you decide to undergo bariatric surgery at NMMC, you will be given the proper education before, during and after surgery to make your surgery successful. This is accomplished by attending the Weight Loss Support Group meetings, attending your office visits, reading the educational material provided, and hearing the individual experiences of past bariatric patients.

About Us

The NMMC Bariatric Program is dedicated to the care of bariatric surgery patients. Our expert team of physicians, nurses, psychologists, dietitians, exercise physiologists and physical therapists work together toward a common goal – your good health.

Mission Statement

To improve the health, well-being, quality and longevity of our patients' lives by providing compassionate, quality care through our comprehensive Bariatric Program at NMMC Bariatric Clinic and Center.

Appointments

Patients are required to attend a mandatory educational seminar prior to scheduling an appointment. Patients are seen by appointment only. Please contact the office 24 hours in advance if you are unable to keep your appointment. For further information or to schedule an appointment, call (662) 377-SLIM (7546).

Office Hours

Our office hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m.-noon Friday. If you are a Bariatric Clinic patient and need medical assistance after hours, please call (662) 377-3000 and ask to speak to Dr. Terry Pinson regarding your bariatric needs.

Center of Excellence

NMMC is designated as an Accredited Center by the Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Accreditation and Quality Improvement program. The designation helps ensure patients that the health care facility and surgeon meet stringent criteria and provide high quality care. Because of the designation, more health plans now cover weight loss surgery at NMMC.



Financial Policy

We participate with several preferred provider organizations. However, if we are not a participant or provider with your insurance company, you will be personally responsible for paying the initial consultation fee along with fees of subsequent visits at the time of each visit. Full payment, non-covered services, co-payments and co-insurance deductibles along with written approval from your insurance company are required prior to scheduling your surgery. Acceptable payment options are credit cards (MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover), cashier's check and cash. Personal checks are not accepted.

Surgery Candidates

Individuals are usually considered morbidly obese if their weight is more than 100 pounds in excess of the ideal body weight with a body mass index of 40. Bariatric surgery may also be an option for people with a body mass index of 35 to 40 who suffer from co-morbidities.

Other Requirements

- There must be documented evidence of unsuccessful weight loss in non-surgical established weight control programs within the past two years.
- Patients must be at least 21 years old.