

Dear Patient,

Thank you for your interest in North Texas Bariatric and Dr. Frank Veninga.

____ **Please** know that your insurance company may require 3 to 5 year proving that you have been obese for this period of time. A medical release form is located in the Patient information Protocol Section of our website. You may have your physicians send these records to us directly. We will also need a letter of medical clearance from your primary care physician stating that you are suitably fit, in his or her opinion, for bariatric surgery. Please list any doctors who will be sending us records so that we can watch for them. **Note: per the new HIPAA privacy guidelines patients must sign a release form and obtain their own medical records. It is your responsibility to have these sent to us.**

____ You must print and fill out the New Patient Paperwork completely, please mail or fax it to our office. Please make sure your records are as complete as possible so you are assured a fair chance of getting insurance approval. Please send information to:

North Texas Bariatric Fax (972)395-1789
4333 N. Josey Lane, Suite 207
Carrollton, TX 75010

____ Dr. Veninga and staff will review the information that has been sent to determine if you are indeed a candidate for the LAP-BAND System

____ If you qualify as a candidate, our office composes a letter to your insurance company, using the information provided to us by you, to obtain pre-approval for surgery.

____ If you do not hear anything after 3-4 weeks, **please contact your insurance company**, as the insurance company will sent out a letter to you at the same time that they sent a letter to us regarding the status of your authorization. We probably will not know anything any sooner than you, regarding your approval. If you have any questions regarding the status of your approval please contact your insurance company, rather than our office as we will not be able to answer these questions.

____ Patients should attend one of the free seminars concerning bariatric surgery given by Dr. Veninga. The lectures are held at the Trinity Medical Center, across from the cafeteria in Conference Room 1A&B, located at 4343 N. Josey Ln. Carrollton, TX. You do not need a reservation for this lecture. Please feel free to bring a spouse, family member or friend. For the upcoming seminar dates please access our website at www.ntxbariatric.com.

___ Initial consultation with Dr. Veninga. **If you are on an HMO, we will need to have the referral from your primary care physician in our office no later than 72 hours in advance or your appointment will have to be rescheduled.** Also, be sure to bring your insurance card and a form of picture ID for us to copy at the time of your first appointment.

___ Depending on your medical history and condition, you may be asked to undergo an upper endoscopy (EGD / Esophagogastroduodenoscopy) with biopsies. This is to evaluate your stomach and to screen for the H-pylori bacteria (an often- unsuspected bacterial infection in your stomach).

North Texas Bariatric is not specifically associated with any dietitian, nutritionist, psychologist or psychiatrist. The following is a partial list of individuals who have worked closely with our patients.

___ Consultation with a nutritionist:
Alice Baland , MA, LPC, RD/LD cash only \$75
469-737-5455

___ Consultation and psychological clearance for surgery.
Dr. Charles, Kluge Dr.Michele Steigleder Dr. Beth Leermaker
972-566-7969 972-492-0755 214-956-8591

___ Jill St. Vincent, M.A, LPC, M.S., RD- she provides a psychological and nutritional consultation together for the rate of \$240 she does not accept insurance.

5220 Spring Valley RD # 545
Dallas, Texas 75254 (214)405-3031

___ Cardio-Diagnostic testing prior to surgery if this appears warranted.

___ We receive medical clearance from your medical specialists for you to have the surgery.

___ Surgery is scheduled

___ Pre-op testing is completed

___ Surgery

We look forward to hearing from you soon.