



*Designated Center of Excellence by the
American College of Surgeons and the
American Society of Bariatric Surgeons*



Center of
Excellence
BARIATRIC SURGERY

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Midwest Bariatric Solutions, Theda Clark and Surgeons Recognized for Excellence in Bariatric Surgery

Midwest Bariatric Solutions and Theda Clark Medical Center, together with surgeons Raymond Georgen and Kevin Wasco, have been designated as a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence by the American Society for Bariatric Surgery (ASBS). Nationally, the ASBS has recognized 33 bariatric centers as Centers of Excellence. The designation is reserved for hospitals, physician practices and individual physicians that meet specific documented performance standards from preoperative management to surgical and post-surgical care.

Midwest Bariatric Solutions is one of the largest providers of surgical and post-surgical treatment for morbid obesity in Wisconsin. Nationally, morbid obesity affects approximately 60 million people, a staggering increase of 75% over the last 20 years. Since the program began, more than 500 operations on morbidly obese patients at Theda Clark Medical Center.

“Our designation as a center of excellence will allow us to serve a wider population affected by the life threatening disease of morbid obesity,” said Dr. Ray Georgen, M.D., F.A.C.S. “We are pleased our patients’ outcomes and our medical processes have helped us earn this distinction.” Georgen and his partner Dr. Kevin Wasco are the primary bariatric surgeons in the practice.

Theda Clark Senior Vice President Kathryn Correia said, “We’re pleased that the Bariatric Program has been recognized as a ‘Center of Excellence’. Theda Clark has an outstanding reputation for quality and this designation is a testament to the dedication of physicians, nurses and staff involved in this program. It helps assure our patients that they will receive the highest quality care possible for their bariatric surgery.”

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www.mwbariatric.com



The two surgical procedures performed by the Bariatric Program are the Gastric Bypass Roux-en-Y and Lap Adjustable Gastric Banding (Lap-Band).

In order to become a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence, the program must pass a site visit, submit all outcomes data and satisfy the following requirements:

- Provide an ongoing, regularly scheduled in-service education program in bariatric surgery;
- Perform at least 125 bariatric surgical cases per year;
- Maintain a designated physician medical director for bariatric surgery;
- The applicant hospital should maintain a full staff to provide consultation services within 30 minutes of a request;
- Maintain a full line of equipment and instruments suitable for morbidly obese patients to include furniture, wheel chairs, operating room tables, etc.;
- Maintain a bariatric surgeon who spends a significant portion of his/her time in the field of bariatric surgery;
- Standardize all pre-surgical and surgical procedures;
- Use nurse or physician extenders dedicated to serving bariatric patients;
- Provide organized and supervised support groups for bariatric patients;
- Monitor and track outcomes for a period of five years with a follow up of at least 75% for bariatric procedures and provide annual outcomes summaries.

In a recent study of their 413 bariatric patients, surgeons at Midwest Bariatric Solutions significantly reduced or cured the incidence of related diseases following bariatric surgery. The study made the following findings:

- Many used a CPAP machine due to sleep apnea, a condition in which breathing stops during the night. Following bariatric surgery, 84% of the patients stopped using the CPAP machine.
- Some patients were using medication to treat acid reflux disease. Following bariatric surgery, 86% stopped using medication after 9 months.



MIDWEST
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SOLUTIONS

THEDA CLARK
MEDICAL CENTER

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- Nine months after surgery 71% stopped using medication to treat hypertension (high blood pressure).
- Following surgery, 63% of patients discontinued the use of their diabetic medications.

Morbid obesity is a chronic disease that is difficult to treat through diet and exercise alone. Bariatric surgery, also called weight loss or gastric bypass surgery, is the best option for people who are morbidly obese and cannot lose weight by traditional means or who suffer from severe obesity-related health problems.

In gastric bypass surgery, surgeons physically decrease the size of the patient's stomach to limit food intake. The remainder of the stomach is not removed, but is completely stapled shut and divided from the stomach "pouch." The outlet from this newly formed pouch empties directly into the lower portion of the small intestine, thus bypassing some calorie absorption.

Midwest Bariatric Solutions was founded by Dr. Ray Georgen and Dr. Kevin Wasco to improve the lives of morbidly obese people in Northeast Wisconsin. In addition to performing bariatric surgeries, both doctors also routinely perform general surgery, trauma surgery and critical care medicine. A full review of their medical credentials may be found online at www.mwbariatric.com.

Theda Clark Medical Center is a nationally verified Level II trauma center by the American College of Surgeons. It has also been named a Certified Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and accredited Stroke Center. Theda Clark is recognized throughout the state of Wisconsin for its innovation and quality care.

ThedaCare™ is a community-owned health system consisting of Appleton Medical Center, Theda Clark Medical Center and New London Family Medical Center, and many other health care services. ThedaCare is the second largest employer in northeast Wisconsin with nearly 5,000 employees.

For more information, media may contact Megan Wilcox, public relations specialist for ThedaCare, at (920) 830-5847, (920) 554-0730 (pager) or Lisa Cruz, Public Relations Director, The Weidert Group, (920) 731-2771.

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