Mercy Care would like to provide additional clarification regarding Bariatric services provided in a Skilled Nursing Facility.

Bariatric services are reserved for individuals that have a very poor prognosis for weight loss. These members will typically exhibit a body mass index (BMI) that is severe enough to make care difficult due to the individual’s inability to change position, ambulate, or transfer without hands on assistance from 3 or more NH staff. Additional care requirements specifically related to the member’s morbid obesity must be evident in the facility documentation, prior to approval of a bariatric level of care.

1. The facility will be required to provide medical documentation supporting the need for a bariatric level of care to the Mercy Care case manager prior to admission and prior to continued authorization.
2. Documentation of care planning and ongoing efforts to effect member weight loss must be provided to the Mercy Care case manager prior to continued authorization for this level of care.
3. Provider shall provide the following:
   - Additional nutritional counseling to assist member with appropriate caloric needs.
   - Physical, occupational or restorative therapies tailored to the member.
   - Demonstrate an ongoing multidisciplinary approach to weight loss.
   - Provide all services, medications, supplies and bariatric equipment necessary including a bariatric bed to maintain the member at the bariatric level of care (excludes customized DME).

This applies to members at the Bariatric Level of Care only. Please note that all bariatric DME is included in the bariatric rate.

If the member is at a level of care, other than bariatric, any bariatric DME would require separate authorization with submission of documentation supporting the medical necessity of bariatric DME.