



# Beyond BMI: Reframing the Obesity Epidemic for Employers

Kelly Klaas, Purchaser Value Manager

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# PBGH Members



- Employers recognize that obesity is contributing to their cost trend, *but...*
  - It's not quantifiable, it's abstract
  - They don't understand the complexity
  - Gaps in health plan data
- Heavy emphasis on employer-sponsored wellness programs

- Development of an employer-sponsored bariatric travel Center of Excellence program
- Prior to this program, employer excluded any bariatric surgery benefit. The patient was responsible for 100% of the cost. *This is not an outlier employer.*
- Estimates suggest third-party payers will recover metabolic and bariatric surgery costs within two-to-four years following a patient's procedure, as a result of the reduction in costs associated with treating obesity-related conditions<sup>1</sup>
  - Realized plan savings for Bariatric COE employer:
    - Pharmacy costs down 70% per month after surgery
    - Medical claims costs still being evaluated

<sup>1</sup>Crémieux, P. Y., et al (2008). A study of economic impact of bariatric surgery. The American Journal of Managed Care. 14(9) pp.589-596

PBGH Symposium

# BEYOND BMI

Reframing the Obesity Epidemic  
for Employers

## Friday, September 21, 2018

9:00 - 9:45am	Keynote: Dr. John Morton, Chief of Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery Stanford University Medical Center
9:45am - 11:45am	Beyond BMI Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pediatrics: Dr. Tom Robinson, Stanford University</li><li>• Sleep: Dr. Natalie Hartenbaum, OccuMedix</li><li>• Oncology: Dr. Raynald Samoa, City of Hope</li><li>• Musculoskeletal: Dr. Kevin MacDonald, Virginia Mason</li><li>• Cardiology: Dr. Karol Watson, UCLA</li></ul>
11:45 - 1:00pm	Lunch and Vendor Case Studies
1:00 - 1:45pm	The Case for Coverage: Employer benefit strategy case study <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nancy Jester, Walmart</li></ul>
1:45 - 2:00pm	Vendor Walk
2:00 - 2:45pm	Workplace hidden bias and stigma discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ted Kyle, RPh, ConscienHealth</li></ul>
2:45 - 3:15pm	Patient Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kristal Pearson Hartman, Obesity Action Coalition</li></ul>
3:15 - 3:30pm	Open Discussion & Closing Remarks

