

LAP-BAND[®] Costs and Insurance

KORY (*LAP-BAND[®] System patient*):

When I first decided to get the surgery, I was unable to financially pay for it out of my pocket. My insurance company did pick up the tab for the surgery but I had to go through a 6-month dietary counseling before they would approve it.

TINA NAPORA (*Reimbursement Specialist*):

Insurance companies do have a set criteria for coverage of the LAP-BAND[®] System. If you meet that criteria then reimbursement is based on your health plan.

MICHELE (*LAP-BAND[®] System patient*):

I qualified for it and within a short period I was able to have the surgery.

STACEY (*LAP-BAND[®] System patient*):

The financial aspect was very minimal for us. Our insurance paid a great majority of it and that cost for us was very minimal.

TINA NAPORA (*Reimbursement Specialist*):

Generally the LAP-BAND[®] system runs between \$12,000 and \$25,000 dollars. This would include the surgeon, the hospital and the anesthesiologist.

TAMI (*LAP-BAND[®] System patient*):

It was a very expensive surgery but I only paid \$250 dollars for the actual surgery and \$50 each time I had to go in for an adjustment.

DUANE (*LAP-BAND[®] System patient*):

My insurance covered all of it except for my deductible.

LYN (*LAP-BAND[®] System patient*):

My mother gave me the money. She gave me the money and I told her she saved my life and she did. She saved my life, not just my physical life but how I feel about my life.

TINA NAPORA (*Reimbursement Specialist*):

Some patients do have co-payments and deductibles that are due in spite of insurance payment. Most of those patients can work with the LAP-BAND[®] finance program through care credit and actually finance either if not their co-pay and deductible, the entire system itself.

IMPORTANT LAP-BAND® SYSTEM SAFETY INFORMATION

Indications: The LAP-BAND® System is indicated for use in weight reduction for severely obese patients with a Body Mass Index (BMI) of at least 40 or a BMI of at least 35 with one or more severe comorbid conditions, or those who are 100 lbs. or more over their estimated ideal weight.

Contraindications: The LAP-BAND® System is not recommended for non-adult patients, patients with conditions that may make them poor surgical candidates or increase the risk of poor results (e.g., inflammatory or cardiopulmonary diseases, GI conditions, symptoms or family history of autoimmune disease, cirrhosis), who are unwilling or unable to comply with the required dietary restrictions, who have alcohol or drug addictions, or who currently are or may be pregnant.

Warnings: The LAP-BAND® System is a long-term implant. Explant and replacement surgery may be required. Patients who become pregnant or severely ill, or who require more extensive nutrition may require deflation of their bands.

Anti-inflammatory agents, such as aspirin, should be used with caution and may contribute to an increased risk of band erosion.

Adverse Events: Placement of the LAP-BAND® System is major surgery and, as with any surgery, death can occur. Possible complications include the risks associated with the medications and methods used during surgery, the risks associated with any surgical procedure, and the patient's ability to tolerate a foreign object implanted in the body.

Band slippage, erosion and deflation, reflux, obstruction of the stomach, dilation of the esophagus, infection, or nausea and vomiting may occur. Reoperation may be required.

Rapid weight loss may result in complications that may require additional surgery. Deflation of the band may alleviate excessively rapid weight loss or esophageal dilation.

Important: For full safety information please visit www.Lapband.com, talk with your doctor, or call Allergan Product Support at 1-800-624-4261.

CAUTION: Rx only.