



Important Update About Your Care and Coverage

Dear Valued Patient,

We're writing to share an important update that strengthens our ability to provide the highest level of bariatric and metabolic surgical care in Texas.

Our practice has joined with other leading bariatric surgeons across the state to form Metabolic and Bariatric Associates (MBA) — a collaborative network created to protect patient access to world-class surgical care. As individual practices, rising healthcare costs and the unwillingness of insurance companies to offer fair contracts made it increasingly difficult to sustain the quality and safety our patients deserve.

By coming together under MBA, we now have the strength to negotiate fair agreements that reflect the true value of exceptional surgical care. During this process, we will be considered out of network with some insurance plans.

What This Means for You

Even though our surgeons will be classified as out-of-network during negotiations, you will never pay more than your normal in-network fees for your surgery.

Here's How it Works

- Your procedure will take place at an in-network hospital or surgery center, so all facility fees remain in-network.
- Our surgeon's professional fees will be billed out-of-network, but by law and under the No Surprises Act (federal and Texas state law), you cannot be billed more than your in-network deductible, copay, or coinsurance.
- We handle all claim submissions and any necessary dispute processes directly with your insurance company—this will not affect your cost or your care.
- You'll always be kept informed and will never receive unexpected bills.

Why Choose Our Surgeons

Dr. Joe Cribbins and Dr. Edmund Chen are nationally recognized experts in bariatric and metabolic surgery, with more than 25 years of experience and thousands of successful procedures performed. They are certified Master Surgeons of Excellence and with exceptional outcomes and the highest standards in patient care.

Dr. Cribbins has served in leadership roles for nearly two decades, including as Medical Director of the Texas Health Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Program for the past 17 years. Together, Drs. Cribbins and Chen are committed to providing compassionate, leading-edge, and life-changing care using the most advanced techniques available — including DAVINCI surgery with the Da Vinci 5 system.

Our Commitment to You




Your trust means everything to us. We want you to know that these changes are designed to ensure that every patient continues to receive superior care, safely, ethically, and affordably. If you have any questions about your coverage, benefits, or upcoming procedure, please don't hesitate to contact our team. We're here to happily guide you through every step of the process with complete transparency and peace of mind.

Thank you for choosing us as your partners in better health.

Warm regards,

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