For more information about our bariatric program or to watch the informational seminar online, visit gwinnettbariatrics.com. To speak to our compassionate staff, call 678-312-6200.

Meet our Doctors

Robert Richard, MD, FACS, Medical Director, is board-certified surgeon who has performed bariatric surgical procedures for more than a decade. Dr. Richard attended Cornell University and Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He fulfilled his surgical, laproscopic and bariatric training at Harvard University’s prestigious Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. After training, Dr. Richard served at the Blanchfield Army Community Hospital in Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Miguel del Mazo, MD, FACS, is a board-certified surgeon and a native of the Atlanta area. He graduated from Johns Hopkins University with his undergraduate degree. He received his master’s degree from Georgia Tech. He is a graduate of Emory University School of Medicine and completed his residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami.
Top 5 Reasons to Choose the Center for Weight Management

1. **Experienced surgeons available 24/7**
   Our board-certified surgeons have more than a decade of experience performing bariatric surgeries.

2. **Our experienced, professional staff**
   Our highly-qualified team has received specialized training in caring for bariatric surgery patients. This includes yearly workshops to learn the newest techniques and treatments.

3. **A culture of caring that puts the patient first**
   We are strongly committed to helping patients achieve long-term weight loss and better health, including improvement or remission of Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, sleep apnea and other medical problems.

4. **Comprehensive bariatric program under one roof**
   We know this can be a life-changing decision. In our 12,000-square-foot clinic, we offer a comprehensive bariatric program that focuses on your needs before, during and after surgery.
   *We also have a satellite office conveniently located in Lawrenceville.*

5. **An accredited and licensed program**
   CWM is an accredited bariatric center. As an accredited bariatric surgery center, we provide not only the hospital resources necessary for optimal care of patients, but also the support resources that are necessary to address the entire spectrum of care and needs of bariatric patients.

Types of Bariatric Surgery Include:

- **Gastric banding** - This type of surgery involves placing an adjustable silicone elastic band around the upper part of the stomach to restrict food passage. The small pouch created by this surgery causes patients to feel full. Gastric band surgery takes about an hour and can be done on an outpatient basis.

- **Gastric bypass** - Gastric bypass surgery involves creating a small stomach pouch to help limit portion size. In Roux-en-Y-gastric bypass, bypasses of the small intestine are created to cause the body to absorb fewer food nutrients. Roux-en-Y-gastric bypass is performed laparoscopically. The gastric bypass procedure takes less than two hours and requires an overnight hospital stay.

- **Gastric sleeve resection** - Gastric sleeve surgery involves the laparoscopic removal of 60 percent of the stomach, giving it the shape of a sleeve or tube. Weight loss occurs not only from reducing the size of the stomach, but also from the reduction of the hormone ghrelin. Lowering the amount of ghrelin decreases hunger, reducing your desire to eat. The gastric sleeve resection takes approximately 90 minutes and requires an overnight hospital stay.

Comprehensive Approach

As a leading hospital in metro Atlanta, our comprehensive bariatric program can assist patients in achieving significant weight loss, long-term weight maintenance and improvement in obesity-related medical conditions.

Our program includes:

- **Eating Well Kitchen**: These cooking classes are designed to educate our patients about developing healthy cooking habits.
- **Free Clothing Exchange Closet**: Patients can donate their no longer needed clothing and exchange them for smaller sized clothes.
- **Massage Therapy**: Massage therapy services are offered to our patients at deeply discounted rates in a calming suite located in our office.
- **Feel in Tune (FIT) Program**: This physical fitness program is supervised by an exercise physiologist. It is designed specifically to meet the needs of bariatric patients.
- **Life Coaching Classes**: These classes are designed to promote healthy lifestyle changes after bariatric surgery. Topics include emotional eating, stress management, positive body image, dating and more.
- **Support Groups**: Support groups are designed for patients as well as their supporters. These groups are designed to be educational and interactive.
- **Educational Workshops**: These comprehensive workshops cover what you need to know before and after surgery.
- **Nutrition Counseling**: Discuss healthy eating habits and proper nutrition before and after bariatric surgery in individual or group meetings with our registered dietitian.