

Opportunity for Care at Eastern Health Medical Weight Management Clinic

Why is Eastern Health sending me a text message?

We are offering you an earlier specialist clinic appointment.

Eastern Health is contacting patients who are still waiting for their first appointment with a surgeon in the Bariatric Surgery Clinic.

We acknowledge you have been waiting for some time.

We would like to offer you the option to obtain care with the Medical Weight Management Clinic to allow you to commence specialised treatment sooner. If you choose to opt-in to this opportunity, This will not affect your position in the Bariatric surgery clinic waiting list.

What is the Medical Weight Management Clinic?

The Medical Weight Management Clinic is a dedicated service providing non-surgical care to patients living with overweight and obesity and any associated health problems. Our approach is holistic, personalised and respectful. Treatment consists of supporting lifestyle change and where appropriate, prescription of medications, with the ultimate goal being to improve the overall health and wellbeing of our patients – not just reducing their weight. The clinic is led by specialist general medicine physicians, most of whom are dual specialists in endocrinology. These doctors' expertise in obesity medicine combines with their broad expertise in medicine to help optimise your overall health, rather than only focusing on the number on the scale. Patients will see a doctor in the clinic and will usually be referred to a dietitian and/or a counsellor who work with the medical team to optimise treatment.

Why can the Medical Weight Management Clinic see me sooner?

Eastern Health recently opened this dedicated medical clinic. This service is expanding, and at this time has more capacity than the Bariatric Surgery clinic to see new patients.

When will my first appointment with the clinic at Eastern Health be booked?

Your first appointment will be booked within 3 months.

Where and when is the clinic located?

Face to face appointments will be at Blackburn Public Surgical Centre, 198 Canterbury Road, Blackburn 3130 on a Wednesday in the afternoon with appointments starting at 1:30pm

Parking is free on site and easy to access.

Where appropriate, some appointments may be conducted via Telehealth (i.e., telephone or video call).

Will I lose my position in the queue for Bariatric Surgery at Eastern Health?

No. If you choose to opt in to see the Medical Weight Management Clinic, you will keep your position in the waiting list for the Bariatric Surgery Clinic unless you request to be taken off it

If I choose to stay and wait for my first appointment with Bariatric Surgery at Eastern Health, how long will I wait?

Waiting time is variable – currently we are treating people who were referred in 2018. Will someone tell my GP/local doctor?

If you confirm you are happy to be seen at the Medical Weight Management Clinic, and after you have had your first appointment, notification will be sent to your GP about your care.

I no longer need Bariatric Surgery assessment, my issue has resolved, or I have had care provided somewhere else. Could you please remove me from your waiting list?

Yes. Please contact our waitlist team either by telephone on (03) 9895 3346 or via email

specialist.clinic.audit@easternhealth.org.au

I have more questions, would like to know more, or would like to talk to someone about this – who can I contact?

Please contact our team via email at weightmanagementASC@easternhealth.org.au