

## Key Questions

### Pediatric Bariatric Surgery (PBS)

#### Background:

An evaluation of the strength of evidence for the safety and efficacy of bariatric surgery for treatment of co-morbid conditions associated with obesity in patients under age 21.

#### Key Questions:

1. Does pediatric bariatric surgery lead to sustained and clinically significant weight loss compared to non-operative approaches?
  - a. In patients aged 21 or less
  - b. Specifically in patients aged 18-21
  - c. Specifically in patients aged 13-17
  - d. Specifically in patients aged 12 or less
2. Does bariatric surgery for patients' a-d (as above) improve comorbid conditions linked to obesity (e.g., diabetes, hypertension, obstructive sleep apnea, musculoskeletal disorders), quality of life, or survival, as compared to non-operative approaches?
3. What are the relative safety profiles of bariatric surgery and non-operative approaches for patients' a-d (as above)?
4. What are the relative cost profiles of bariatric surgery and non-operative approaches for patients' a-d (as above)?
5. Do the effectiveness, safety and cost of bariatric surgery for patients a-d (as above) vary based on patients' characteristics, including:
  - a. Chronological age
  - b. Physiologic/skeletal age
  - c. Pre-surgical BMI
  - d. Pre-surgical BMI categories (35-40, 40-50, 50+)
  - e. Sex
  - f. Race
  - g. Comorbid conditions (e.g., hypertension)
  - h. Other factors (e.g., psychosocial or socioeconomic factors)