

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How can I learn more about ACS BSCN?

Visit [www.acsbscn.org](http://www.acsbscn.org) to access detailed information or download the ACS BSCN Accreditation Program Manual to review the standards and see a list of participating centers.

## What's included in the fee?

The fee covers a three-year period and includes a site evaluation to determine eligibility for accreditation (within U.S.), participation in the longitudinal outcomes database using Web-based software, data collector training, and ongoing clinical and technical support.

## Do we have to be an ACS NSQIP site to become an ACS BSCN-Accredited Bariatric Center?

No. ACS BSCN centers that also participate in ACS NSQIP have the added benefit of receiving data from ACS NSQIP for common variables and eliminating redundancy in data entry for selected cases. For more information about ACS NSQIP, visit [www.acsnsqip.org](http://www.acsnsqip.org).

## How long does it take to complete the review process and become a fully accredited ACS BSCN-Accredited Bariatric Center?

On average, approximately four to six months from the date your completed application is received.

## Who abstracts the data?

Centers are required to designate a primary bariatric data collector. The data collector must successfully complete online training provided by the ACS BSCN prior to commencement of data collection. This requirement helps to ensure data integrity and reliability and also enables the data abstractor to build a relationship with the ACS BSCN clinical support team. Data collection begins upon provisional approval of your application.

## How do we apply?

The ACS BSCN electronic application is available at [www.acsbscn.org](http://www.acsbscn.org). Should you have any questions prior to submitting your application, please contact us at [bscn@facs.org](mailto:bscn@facs.org).

*"The process of assessing the structure, processes, and outcomes of our bariatric surgical programs as part of the ACS BSCN accreditation process was invaluable for us to assess and improve on what we are doing, and to secure hospital resources to provide better care for our patients."*

*Matthew M. Hutter, MD, FACS  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Boston, MA*

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) was established in 1913 and is the largest organization of surgeons in the world that is dedicated to improving the quality of care for surgical patients. Ensuring safe, optimal surgical care by acknowledging programs that seek to uphold high levels of quality care and safety in accordance with nationally recognized standards is at the core of the ACS mission. The ACS demonstrates this commitment to optimal patient care through its nationally recognized quality improvement programs, such as the BSCN.

### ACS BSCN Accreditation Program

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### AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

*Inspiring Quality:  
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes*

ACS  
BSCN  
BSCN

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS  
BARIATRIC SURGERY CENTER NETWORK  
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

# Accreditation for Bariatric Quality Care



*"The ACS BSCN provides a streamlined process for the collection of data and accreditation that leads to improvement in the quality of care for our bariatric patients."*

*Ninh T. Nguyen, MD, FACS  
Medical Director, Bariatric Program  
Irvine Medical Center, University of California,  
Irvine, CA*

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AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS  
BARIATRIC SURGERY CENTER NETWORK  
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM



# ACS BSCN Accreditation

## The American College of Surgeons Bariatric Surgery Center Network (ACS BSCN)

Accreditation Program fosters safe, high-quality bariatric surgical care through accreditation of inpatient and outpatient centers. Since its establishment in 2005, the ACS BSCN recognizes centers that have undergone an independent, voluntary, and rigorous peer evaluation in accordance with the nationally recognized bariatric standards, and that collect long-term outcomes data. Both high-volume and low-volume facilities experience the benefits of participation in ACS BSCN, including:

- On-site evaluation (within U.S.) conducted by board-certified bariatric surgeons.
- All-inclusive, three-year accreditation fee, including use of the database.
- Streamlined clinical data variables that minimize the data collection burden.
- Centers that also participate in ACS NSQIP® can automatically push information from any bariatric case collected through the ACS NSQIP sampling process to the ACS BSCN database.
- ACS BSCN training of data abstractors to ensure consistent, high-quality data.
- Online reports, including benchmarking of surgical outcomes.
- Potential for reimbursement by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) for Level 1 Accredited Bariatric Centers.
- Recognition on the Joint Commission's Quality Check™ website, [www.qualitycheck.org](http://www.qualitycheck.org).

[www.acsbscn.org](http://www.acsbscn.org)

# Inpatient Accreditation

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## LEVEL 1

Level 1 centers are those that will provide complete care, with resources devoted to the bariatric surgery. These hospitals have high-volume practices and can manage the most challenging and complex patients. These centers will engage patients at all levels of obesity, ages, comorbid conditions, and reoperations.

### Center volume requirement:

125 or more weight-loss operations annually.

### Surgeon requirement:

At least one credentialed and experienced bariatric surgeon who performed a minimum of 100 weight-loss operations in the previous 24 months.

Facilities with one bariatric surgeon must still meet the volume requirement for a Level 1 center.

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## LEVEL 2

Recognizing that high-quality surgical care is not exclusive to high-volume centers, ACS BSCN designates certain facilities as Level 2 centers. Level 2 centers deliver high-quality surgical care to a lower volume of patients than Level 1 centers. These centers are not approved for operations on high-risk patients. Please see the ACS BSCN Accreditation Program Manual for details at [www.acsbscn.org](http://www.acsbscn.org).

### Center volume requirement:

25 or more weight-loss operations annually.

### Surgeon requirement:

At least one credentialed and experienced bariatric surgeon who performed a minimum of 50 weight-loss operations in the previous 24 months.

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## LEVEL 2-NEW

A bariatric surgery center is eligible to apply for Level 2-New accreditation once it performs 25 weight-loss operations. The center must still meet all other ACS BSCN Accreditation Program criteria for Level 2 centers. After more than one year of full accreditation, a Level 2-New center is eligible to become a Level 2 center or apply for Level 1 designation, provided it meets Level 1 requirements.

# Outpatient Accreditation

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## OUTPATIENT

Outpatient centers successfully provide the application and adjustment of laparoscopic adjustable gastric bands. At this time, application and adjustment of laparoscopic adjustable gastric bands are the only procedures approved for Outpatient center accreditation.

### Center volume requirement:

50 or more weight-loss operations annually.

### Surgeon requirement:

At least one credentialed and experienced bariatric surgeon who performed or supervised a minimum of 100 weight-loss operations in the previous 24 months.

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## OUTPATIENT-NEW

A program may apply for an Outpatient-New designation after it performs 25 laparoscopic adjustable gastric band procedures. The center must still meet all other ACS BSCN Accreditation Program criteria for Outpatient centers.

