

Coverage for Weight Loss Clinics

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A wide range of misconceptions and stigmas surround obesity. Those suffering from obesity are often desperate to try anything, and in their state of vulnerability, they may compromise their health. This is not surprising considering the prevalence of unauthorized diet pills on the market.

According to a new report by Reports and Data, the global obesity treatment market size is expected to reach USD 27.10 billion by 2028 at a CAGR of 15.7%. Growing obesity rates predominantly stem from sedentary lifestyles, unhealthy eating habits, and inactivity. Growth in the global market for weight-loss devices and equipment is further augmented by the increasing availability of commercial weight-management programs, technologically enhanced weight-loss devices, and government initiatives to raise awareness about obesity and its adverse health effects. In addition, the growth of gym culture and cosmetic concerns, particularly among millennials, increasing interest in weight-loss surgery and rising healthcare expenditure are creating growth opportunities. (1)

In light of the magnitude of this health concern, a weight loss clinic's services are in high demand. Find out how you can start covering this market and how Weight Loss Clinics are exposed.

Weight Loss Centres are Complex, Multidisciplinary Clinics

People who visit weight loss clinics or centers learn strategies for losing weight and staying healthy; they also learn methods for maintaining weight loss. Following an initial assessment, the clinician will design a weight loss plan customized specifically for the client. Clinics that offer comprehensive, integrative care include trained clinicians, doctors, and medical professionals.

Weight loss centers usually offer a comprehensive program, which means multiple types of professionals are involved in helping clients lose weight and maintain their weight loss. These professionals include counsellors, coaches, nurses, dietitians, and surgeons (in the case of bariatric surgery). As a result, problems can arise in many ways, or they are more likely to occur.

What's At Risk For Weight Loss Clinics

Following are some common instances of the many things that can go wrong in a weight loss clinic setting:

- Emotional sensitivities can lead to clients being unhappy with their treatment at the clinic; for example, they may be more likely to feel they have been treated poorly or even emotionally abused
- A client may feel they have been given incorrect or harmful advice on their diet plan, such as food choices, meal instructions, or exercise routines, prompting them to assert a claim against their healthcare provider or clinic
- It can be very dangerous, even deadly, if the professional coach or dietician does not consider an allergy

Even if the claims are false, a client may sue the facility, and legal fees, as well as defence costs, must be considered.

Weight loss centres may also be exposed to litigation or loss in the following cases:

- There is no success with the weight loss program as the client was promised
- A team member makes unrealistic or unfulfilled promises to the client about what the client can expect
- Medicine that has harmful effects or causes health problems
- Misplaced records, sharing of client information, or stolen information as a result of a physical property theft or a cyberattack are all examples of privacy exposures
- When communication is lacking between the healthcare team and the patient's primary physician, patients may develop serious health problems
- There may be an interaction between a patient's medication and the weight loss clinic's prescription, or the diet might worsen a disease or interfere with a medication.

Regulation a Key to Reducing Poor Patient Outcomes

According to an article in the Canadian Medical Association Journal by Drs Yoni Freedhoff and Arya M. Sharma, weight loss clinics need to be better regulated. As weight loss is a medical condition for which treatment guidelines exist, weight-loss products and services need to be regulated to protect consumer health. (2) Regulation ensures weight loss management is safe for consumers.

These regulations could include mandates like:

- Providing consumers with easy-to-recognize evidence-based services by requiring providers to become accredited.
- Teaching health professionals how to apply evidence-based principles to support weight loss efforts.

Better regulation could also mean the reduction of harmful yet common practices. For example, some clinics prescribe Ephedrine as a diet drug, or put consumers on a low-calorie diet that is poorly supervised, both of which can be harmful, if not fatal.

In clinics that stay above board, using smart and safe practices and procedures, the consumers benefit and the clinics stay protected from legal claims of fraud and negligence.

The MedThree Advantage

With specialized experience in the healthcare industry, MedThree Insurance Group can help by providing tailored policies for weight loss clinics. Our healthcare provider coverage options make it easy for brokers to find the right policy for their clients. Visit us at <https://medthreeinsurance.com> to learn more about our healthcare insurance products.

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Sources:

1. https://www.einnews.com/pr_news/557780631/obesity-treatment-market-size-to-reach-usd-27-08-billion-in-2028-reports-and-data
2. <https://www.cmaj.ca/content/180/4/367.full#ref-4>