



## COVIDIEN ANSWERS HEALTH PROFESSIONALS' NEED FOR KNOWLEDGE WITH LAUNCH OF BARIATRICS.PRO.COM

*Web Site Introduced at Annual Bariatric Conference; as Rate of Surgery Increases Five-Fold,  
More Than Two-Thirds of American Adults Considered Overweight or Obese*

**North Haven, CT (June 24, 2009)** – As more and more patients turn to bariatric surgery to treat their obesity, healthcare products leader Covidien (NYSE: COV, BSX: COV), announced today the launch of BariatricsPro.com, a Web site designed to provide the medical community with information on the latest research and advances in bariatric surgery, as well as its role in resolving Type 2 Diabetes. The announcement was made at the annual American Society for Bariatric Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery conference in Texas.

The site serves as a resource for bariatric surgeons, physicians, nurses and members of the allied health community, provides access to hundreds of articles and research papers that will help them address the needs of bariatric patients – from initial interest through post-operative care. Innovative products and technology are also featured, and surgeons can sign up for the Surgeon Locator directory. This directory enables referring physicians to set potential patients on the right path to care by connecting them with qualified surgeons in their area.

Unique functions of BariatricsPro.com include:

- Podcasts of informational presentations
- Surgeon Locator designed to connect physicians with bariatric surgeons
- Clinical resources
- New products page
- Practice management tools geared towards business development executives
- Bariatric events and activities calendar

“BariatricsPro.com is an important tool that is being made available to provide the medical community the information that will help them determine which of their patients are viable candidates for surgery, and to help answer their questions about the treatment,” said Michael Tarnoff, MD, FACS, Chief Medical Officer & VP Medical Affairs, Surgical Devices, Covidien. “Covidien has a steadfast commitment to ongoing research, education and support that will continue to unlock new breakthroughs and opportunities in bariatric surgery, including the eradication of Type 2 Diabetes, and BariatricsPro.com will help us share this information with a worldwide audience.”

As the demand and technology rapidly increases and advances, there is a need among physicians and other health care professionals for the latest, most up-to-date information to share with their patients.

Bariatric surgery procedures have increased significantly over the years as more than 25 percent of the entire U.S. adult population struggles with obesity.<sup>1</sup> In 2008, an estimated 220,000 Americans with morbid obesity elected to undergo bariatric surgery<sup>2</sup>, compared with only 13,365 in 1998<sup>3</sup>. In that time, major advances in surgical techniques and procedures have been made. Studies have also found that gastric bypass surgery resolves Type 2 Diabetes, which impacts millions of Americans, in approximately 77 percent<sup>4</sup> of morbidly obese patients.

“This site will be of interest to any family doctor who has questions about bariatric surgery, how to select patients, what the patient will go through, what happens after surgery, and how to deal with delayed problems,” said Rick Ricer, M.D. “This is a ‘one-stop shopping’ site.”

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<sup>1</sup> Mayo Clinic, [www.mayoclinic.com/health/obesity/DS00314](http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/obesity/DS00314)

<sup>2</sup> American Society for Bariatric & Metabolic Surgery

<sup>3</sup> Santry HP, Gillen DL, Lauderdale DS (2005) Trends in bariatric surgical procedures. JAMA 294(15):1909–1917

<sup>4</sup> The American Journal of Medicine

19 June 9:25am Final approved version. Changes made by LR.

Also launched this week, Covidien's Our Resolution movement, a collaboration of healthcare experts, nonprofits and health agencies who share the goal of resolving Type 2 Diabetes, will further educate the medical community about bariatric surgery's role in resolving this disease through in-person presentations throughout the country.

In 2008, Covidien launched bariatrics4diabetes.com, a companion site for consumers interested in in-depth information on bariatric surgery and the resolution of Type 2 Diabetes.

**About Covidien**

Covidien is a leading global healthcare products company that creates innovative medical solutions for better patient outcomes and delivers value through clinical leadership and excellence. Covidien manufactures, distributes and services a diverse range of industry-leading product lines in four segments: Medical Devices, Imaging Solutions, Pharmaceutical Products and Medical Supplies. With 2008 revenue of nearly \$10 billion, Covidien has more than 41,000 employees worldwide in 59 countries, and its products are sold in over 140 countries. Please visit covidien.com to learn more about our business.

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