

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2009

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Dr. Joseph E. Chebli of Northwest Obesity Surgery is the First in the State of Washington to Offer Cash-Pay Surgical Patients Peace of Mind with a Surgical ‘Warranty’

Seattle, Washington – Choosing to undergo a surgical procedure is never an easy choice. But for people who do not have insurance coverage, it’s an even more difficult decision, especially considering the state of the economy today. Joseph E. Chebli, M.D., F.A.C.S. has been helping cash pay patients interested in undergoing weight loss surgery for a number of years but now has a new program in place to help this population with their decision to move forward with surgery.

BLIS, Inc., based out of Portland, Oregon has been contracted by Dr. Joseph Chebli along with partner Evergreen Medical Center to include a ‘surgical warranty’ in the price their patients pay for surgery. This ‘warranty’ is in place to pay for the care of a covered complication, should one arise for a self-pay patient following surgery.

“This program is only offered to a handful of surgeons across the country that can prove that they have strong clinical outcomes and minimal complications. It essentially is another way for patients to know that their surgeon has been verified to have excellent skills and encourages surgeons and hospitals to provide high-quality care to help avoid costly mistakes,” states Dr. Joseph Chebli, Medical Director of Northwest Obesity Surgery.

BLIS continually monitors its participating surgeons to ensure that the clinical outcomes for patients are meeting expectations. “Much like car insurance carriers, we monitor our physician partners to make sure that they meet our high quality standards,” states BLIS President & CEO Regi Schindler. “By being involved with this program, Northwest Obesity Surgery is providing patients peace of mind and showing just how committed they are to the long term success and safety of their patients.”

With insurance coverage continually changing, more and more people are undergoing surgical intervention as a cash pay patient. The concept behind Dr. Joseph Chebli partnering with BLIS is to provide cash pay patients with a safety net should a complication occur. As with any surgical procedure, weight loss surgery patients can experience complications after surgery and this program provides financial coverage and security for these patients.

“Many patients are willing to pay cash for a surgical procedure but are nervous about the potential out of pocket costs that they might incur should a complication arise. With the state of the economy today, most people are unable to justify this financial risk for themselves and their families.” states Dr. Chebli “Although complications are rare, they can happen and the peace of mind of not having to pay for medical expenses should this happen helps patients to feel more comfortable with their decision.”

Dr. Joseph E. Chebli is the first surgeon in the state of Washington to be accepted into and start utilizing the BLIS program. The BLIS program coverage has already been implemented for all of Dr. Chebli’s cash pay patients and will cover common complications from surgery for a specified amount of time. “The peace of mind that we can now offer to our patients through this program is phenomenal. We certainly hope that none of our patients ever need to utilize it but feel strongly that it is a great patient benefit,” stated Joseph E. Chebli, M.D.

About Joseph E. Chebli, M.D., F.A.C.S

Dr. Chebli graduated from Georgetown University in 1991 and completed medical school at SUNY at Stony Brook in 1995. Dr. Chebli completed his surgical residency at Georgetown University Hospital and became board certified in General Surgery in 2002.

He was named a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 2004. He is a member of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery and the Society Of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons. He is also a member of Washington State Medical Association, King County Medical Society, Snohomish County Medical Society, and Seattle Surgical Society.

Dr. Chebli was named a Top Doctor by Seattle Magazine in the field of Bariatric Surgery in 2007 and 2008. Dr. Chebli offers patients the laparoscopic gastric bypass, laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy, laparoscopic adjustable gastric band, and laparoscopic revisional surgery including StomaphyX.

For more information about Dr. Chebli and Northwest Obesity Surgery, visit <http://northwestobesitysurgery.com>

About BLIS

BLIS is a privately held company headquartered in Lake Oswego, Oregon with an insurance services office in Bloomington, MN. BLIS provides insurance, patient financing and professional consulting services through a network of related business entities and industry partners. For more information, visit www.bliscompany.com.