

HUVC is Internationally Certified as a Center of Excellence in Bariatric Surgery



Hospital Unimed Vale do Caí (HUVC) is following the mission of keeping the spirit of innovation and pioneering in healthcare, and it was qualified as the first Unimed's Hospital in Brazil to become a Center of Excellence in Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery accredited internationally by Surgical Review Corporation (SRC). SRC is an entity that performs accreditation, and the headquarters are in North Carolina, United States (USA). The official announcement of this achievement took place in the HUVC's auditorium yesterday morning (December 13th). The designation represented by the program seal, certifies that the hospital achieved the designation, and it is adequate and aligned with the latest regulations of good practices in the treatment of patients with obesity.



This achievement places the HUVC next to a select group of only five hospitals in the state who hold this title, according to Dr. Cácio Wietzycoski who is the surgeon responsible for the Bariatric Surgery Multidisciplinary Team. Dr. Wietzycoski said, "this designation demonstrates that HUVC is committed to quality care proving efficiency and safety in the patient care. The engagement of everyone in the process was fundamental to this success".



In his speech, Dr. Everton Bochi (the president of Unimed Vale do Caí) reminded everyone of the success story of Unimed and its constant search for excellence. "All these certifications that we received show people that we are on the right track," he said. Dr. Bochi also praised the commitment and the dedication of the Bariatric Surgery team in obtaining this recognition. "They have looked for something unheard of, thanks to their vision, ability and persistence,"

Professionals from the bariatric surgery team also received their individual certification



In addition to the COEMBS HUVC certification, Dr. Cácio Wietzycoski also received his title as a Surgeon of Excellence by SRC and his practice called CEMTrOM - Specialized Multiprofessional Center for the Treatment of Obesity and Metabolism. Other members from his team such as Dr. Aline D'Ávila (endocrinologist), Patrícia Cruz (psychologist), Cristina de Oliveira Bier (nurse), Carolina Rabello Drummond and Grasiane Izidorio Garbelloto (nutritionists) also received their title as Bariatric Care Specialists. This title is awarded after careful evaluation of the professionals regarding their training, experience and commitment to the care of patients undergoing bariatric surgery and it is the most important international recognition to the members of the multidisciplinary team.

The HUVC also achieved another designation provided by the National Accreditation Organization (ONA), which certifies the quality of healthcare services in Brazil. This recognition is granted to institutions that meet patient safety criteria in all areas, including structural, management and quality care.

The History of Bariatric Surgery at HUVC

We began clinical care for patients with obesity in preoperatively process for bariatric surgery in Montenegro and the surround region in September 2011. The first bariatric surgery was performed at HUVC on January 30th, 2012 after the formation of the multidisciplinary team which originally had physicians, physiotherapists, nutritionists, nurses and psychologists.

"The multidisciplinary team of bariatric surgery at HUVC is a service of high quality and efficiency," said Dr. Wietzycoski. "We carry out procedures with a high level of security, excellent results and complete and excellent service," he also said. We have performed approximately 485 bariatric surgeries, and implanted approximately 60 gastric balloons to treat obesity. The treatment of obesity with the use of the intragastric balloon also plays a prominent role in the team, a pioneer in the use of the adjustable gastric balloon in the state, in addition to the bariatric surgery,

Certification Process

The SRC site inspectors (SI) visited the HUVC on June 29th, 2018 to verify the compliance with the program requirements for the Center of Excellence accreditation program. The accreditation process is performed in two phases. In the first phase, the SI verifies the institution's commitment to excellence, the surgeon's experience and surgical volume, the standardization of operational procedures and the existence of a specialized, multidisciplinary team. The second phase is based on the confirmation of the requirements through a detailed onsite visit by the SI. They are American SRC employees, and they visited the hospital evaluating the premises, equipment and documents, interviewing members of the team and other hospital employees.

The SI, Dr. Neil Hutcher and Dr. Daniela Schaan Casagrande, praised the team regarding the quality of care and the excellent results presented during the inspection. At that time, they pointed out that the HUVC COMBS program was similar as the best bariatric programs in the US. HUVC will receive a site inspection visit from SRC site inspectors every 3 years to maintain its designation.

SRC is a nonprofit, independent organization that evaluates clients with impartiality based program requirements. SRC recognizes and certifies professionals and institutions who deliver safety and quality care. Nowadays, SRC is the only company who performs the Center of Excellence in Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery accreditation, worldwide.