

Providing patients with choice

OBESITY is a growing problem around the world and the number of people opting for a surgical solution to reduce their weight is soaring.

But with one in five operations failing because the underlying issues leading to weight gain aren't addressed, the Bupa Cromwell is helping patients battle the psychological as well physical issues associated with the condition.

The hospital launched its Weight Management Centre last month to offer people a complete obesity treatment service. It helps people to make lifestyle changes and offers a comprehensive range of medical/pharmacotherapy (drug) treatments and surgery alternatives as

well as weight loss surgery.

By offering such advice, the centre aims to extend people's life expectancy by educating them about the illnesses that accompany obesity, such as diabetes and heart disease.

"We know that many people are looking for the quick-fix of surgery," says Ahmed Ahmed, bariatric (the branch of medicine that deals with the causes, prevention and treatment of obesity) surgeon at the centre.

"But by offering a complete approach to managing obesity, we can ensure we get the best outcome for each patient."

This approach emphasises the importance the Bupa Cromwell places on providing patients with choice and

encouraging individuals to choose the treatment that will work best for them.

Every patient visiting the centre is recommended to be seen by a surgeon, metabolic physician, psychologist, dietician and bariatric nurse, who help the patient along the journey back to health.

A free drop-in session is available for anyone interested, where the specialists talk through the different treatment options available. Patients also have the opportunity to talk to those that have previously undergone surgery.

Ahmed adds: "The services we offer are, essentially, life-saving, so it's important the patient is completely committed to their choice based on a full understanding of what is involved."

FACT

Bupa Cromwell has been accredited by the International Accreditation and Certification Board, covering a wide range of clinical areas of medicine.