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Cutback on lap band ops

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West Australians are losing their stomach for lap band surgery, with the State's two biggest health insurers reporting big falls in the number of patients having the procedure.

HBF says claims for 2009-10 show that the number of patients who had obesity surgery fell 21 per cent to 1122, while Medibank Private reported a 15 per cent decrease to 441 over the same period.

According to Sue Taylor, an obesity surgeon at Perth's Circle of Care Clinic, patients were putting off the expensive operation at a time of economic uncertainty.