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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Shreveport, LA

***Local Physician First in Area to Provide New Gastric Balloon
Weight Loss Procedure***

The gastric balloon options are now the newest and most effective non-surgical devices for weight loss. Now the ORBERA™ Single Intra-gastric Balloon and the ReShape™ Integrated Dual Balloon are both approved by the FDA for weight loss.

In an **endoscopic procedure**, the balloon device is placed into the stomach through the esophagus and then inflated with saline. The “implant” is left in for up to 6 months for maximum weight loss. The balloon system keeps the patient feeling full with less food and also delays emptying of the food from the stomach into the intestines.

Dr. George Merriman of Freedom From Obesity® in Shreveport, LA is the **first selected and trained physician in the ArkLaTex** region to do this non-surgical procedure. With over 20 years of experience in the treatment of Obesity as a bariatric surgeon, Dr. Merriman has team of professionals who will work to help the patient achieve maximum weight loss during the 6 months that the balloon is in the patient’s stomach and then will continue the follow up program for 6 additional months to help the patient solidify their lifestyle changes to keep the weight off.

ReShape explains that, “When you’re serious about losing weight and improving your health, the ReShape™ Procedure is a smart choice. Our unique dual balloon design and comprehensive fitness, nutrition, and lifestyle coaching work together to help you achieve your goals.”

Apollo Endosurgery, Inc explained the history of their single balloon device in their FDA approval announcement in August saying, “While new to the United States, ORBERA™ is a weight loss device with more than 220,000 balloons distributed in over 80 countries and approximately 230 published papers documenting its clinical results,” said Todd Newton, Chief Executive Officer of Apollo Endosurgery.

George R. Merriman II, MD, FACS, FASMBS has been in practice in Shreveport, LA since 1992 and has performed over 3000 bariatric surgeries.

For interviews, please contact Katy Merriman, Merriman Consulting, LLC at 318.458.2965 or at kmconsult@bellsouth.net

***For patient information please visit www.freedomfromobesity.com/balloon
www.reshapeready.com and www.orbera.com.***