STANDARD

All Bay of Plenty District Health Board (BOPDHB) patients who meet any one of the following will be classed as bariatric and therefore subject to this protocol:

- A bariatric patient will be defined as anyone regardless of age, who has limitations in health and social care due to their weight, physical size, shape, width, health, mobility, tissue viability and environmental access with one or more of the following area (Ashford and St. Peters, 2009)
- Obesity in an adult is defined as a body mass index (BMI) of 30 kg/m\(^2\) or higher and morbid obesity is defined as a body weight more than (45.4 kg) heavier than a person's ideal body weight or a BMI of 40 kg/m\(^2\) or higher. BMI measures weight in relation to height and correlates to direct measurements of a person's body fat performed by other methods.
- Exceeds the safe working load (SWL) and dimensions of the support surface such as a bed, chair, wheelchair, couch, Trolley, toilet, mattress. (Ashford and St. Peters, 2009)

Patients who are recognised as being bariatric must have weight and size appropriate equipment available for their use.

This protocol is to be used in conjunction with BOPDHB policy 5.4.8 Manual Handling and 5.4.8 protocol 2 Moving and Handling - Training.

OBJECTIVE

To minimise or eliminate foreseeable handling risks to patients and staff by ensuring that specialist advice, equipment and aids for the bariatric patient is available within BOPDHB as soon as is reasonably practicable.

To ensure the bariatric patient is moved in a safe, comfortable and dignified manner.

EQUIPMENT

Individual pieces of equipment must be checked for the precise Safe Working Load (SWL) before using with a bariatric patient. The patient’s weight must not exceed the SWL.

STANDARDS TO BE MET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>RATIONALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bariatric patients to be treated with dignity and respect.</td>
<td>Prevent discrimination against patient as per patient rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refer to the relevant multidisciplinary team for further assessment</td>
<td>To ensure patient has full access to all relevant disciplines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All equipment to have sufficient SWL including their bed and mattress. If no equipment is available contact the Manager who will arrange hire of equipment. This should be made available to the patient within 24 hours.</td>
<td>To prevent actual and potential injury to patient and staff. To ensure comfort and dignity of patient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: The electronic version of this document is the most current. Any printed copy cannot be assumed to be the current version.
**MOVING AND HANDLING – BARIATRIC PATIENT**

**MOVING & HANDLING PROTOCOL**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>RATIONALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient to be nursed in either a bariatric room or have the use of two (2) bed spaces within the ward.</td>
<td>To create a safe working environment for both staff and patient and allow sufficient space for bariatric equipment and furniture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resuscitation – extra care MUST be taken when defibrillating bariatric patients who have a large android torso.</td>
<td>To ensure no contact with excess skin if holding defibrillating paddles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharge planning to commence on admission or on pre-admission</td>
<td>To ensure adequate time for ensuring safe transportation home and supply of necessary equipment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*See Appendix 1 for management process within BOPDHB*

**REFERENCES**

- Ashford and St. Peter’s Hospitals NHS Trust (2009)., Bariatric Patient Policy
- Northland DHB Bariatric protocol
- Recommended practices for positioning the patient in the perioperative practice setting. (2014). In R. Conner, et al. (Eds.), *Perioperative standards and recommended practices*. Denver, CO: AORN, Inc. (Level VII)

**ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS**

- Bay of Plenty District Health Board Policy 5.4.8 Moving and Handling
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 5.4.8 Protocol 1 Moving and Handling - Reporting
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 5.4.8 Protocol 2 Moving and Handling - Training
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 5.4.8 Protocol 3 Moving and Handling - Equipment
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 5.4.8 Protocol 4 Moving and Handling - Laundry
- Bay of Plenty District Health Board policy 5.4.8 Protocol 5 Moving and Handling - Ambulance Transfer Nurse
Appendix 1:

Management Process for bariatric or severely obese patients within BOPDHB

Planned Admission
- Simplified LITE assessment completed by Pre-admit Nurse
  - Pre-admit nurse informs Operating Room Clinical Nurse Co-ordinator and Anaesthetic assessment referral as necessary and patient's health record are red flagged
  - Pre-admit nurse informs Receiving ward CNM, Moving and Handling Co-ordinator and Tissue Viability Nurse
  - CNM of receiving ward arranges any necessary equipment prior to admission and if necessary arrange hire of equipment. Ward CNM liaises with diagnostics, therapy, dietician etc. once admitted.

Emergency Admission
- Ambulance service contacts ED re bariatric admission. Clinical Nurse Co-ordinator arranges Bariatric Bed to meet patient and informs relevant ED staff
  - Clinical Nurse Co-ordinator informs Duty Manager and any other necessary staff / departments – Theatre, Diagnostics, Therapy, Moving and Handling Co-ordinator and Tissue Viability Nurse
  - Duty Manager informs receiving ward and organises any necessary bariatric equipment prior to arrival. Patient room must be bariatric capable
  - Ward staff complete Simplified LITE assessment and obtain required equipment as soon as is
  - Discharge planning includes provision of any services and equipment the patient will require at home

Interdepartmental transfers or discharge
- Ward informs receiving ward / department - Diagnostics, Therapy, orderlies and / or ambulance as early as possible of patient’s bariatric status
  - LITE assessment form must be kept updated and accompany patient during transfer.
  - Receiving ward / department arranges for continuation of hire equipment or organises delivery of DHB equipment to replace hire equipment

Care of the deceased
- Inform funeral directors, and orderlies of imminent transfer and patient size
  - Patient to remain on appropriate bed / stretcher until transfer to funeral director either on the ward or in the body storage facility
  - Transfer to funeral director bed using the hoist or patient and slide sheets
  - If patient is not being retrieved by funeral director straight away i.e. being collected by family or coroner then arrangements must include moving and handling considerations taking into account any cultural requirements.

Tauranga Hospital
- 400 kg Hoist and sling available on 4th floor if necessary.
- Special scales in corridor behind ED for weighing patient on bed or chair up to 800 kg