

BARIATRIC PATIENT TRANSPORT

Indication

- To be used when the weight of the patient exceeds the weight limitations of ambulance equipment

• When ambulance crews are faced with a patient that exceeds the weight limitations of the standard ambulance equipment, personnel shall request a 'bariatric ambulance' from their dispatcher. Crews will provide the estimated weight of the patient

- The dispatcher shall contact the local private ambulance providers to determine if they have a bariatric unit available. The private ambulance provider will provide an ETA to the incident scene
- Dispatchers will relay this information to the personnel at the incident who will then confirm their need for the specialized equipment

If patient's condition is such that a delay in transport (caused by the use of a bariatric equipped ambulance) will potentially cause additional harm to the patient

- Ambulance personnel should consider transporting the patient on the floor of the standard ambulance. In those cases, floor and wall cot hardware shall be removed (if possible) as to not compromise patient safety

- Bariatric patients shall only be transported in an ambulance
- As early as possible, field personnel will relay to the destination hospital that they are inbound with a bariatric patient. The communication will include the approximate weight of the patient

- Field personnel shall notify their agency CQI coordinator and immediate supervisor of any incident involving the management and transport of a bariatric patient. Management personnel will review all cases for appropriate care

Critical Information

- The emergent need to transport a patient shall supersede the application of this policy
- At all times, the dignity of the patient will be preserved and considered a high priority for all personnel
- Ambulance cots shall be clearly labeled with weight capacity information
- Additional personnel shall be utilized when moving bariatric patients to prevent injury to rescue personnel and the patient
- The additional time to move the patient shall be considered when evaluating the decision to wait for a bariatric transport unit