

# The Bariatric Patient Journey Identifying and Managing Risk in an Acute Hospital Environment

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- Bariatric – Definition
- Attitude, Stigma and bias
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# Objective

To provide patient centred care in a safe and dignified manner.

The potential risks were assessed prior to commencing a bariatric surgery contract

# Bariatric Word Greek Origin

A field of medicine encompassing the study of the overweight its causes, prevention and treatment.

Baros = Weight

Iatros = Physician

Barys = Heavy

The term “plus size” is increasingly more popular



# Confusion Regarding Definition?

Does it mean

Morbidly obese – i.e. NICE definition?

Extremely heavy?

Above 25 st – 159kg?

Waist circumference >40 inches - 102cm?

Athletes with high BMI

# Appropriate Definition?

Any patient with:-

Limitations in health and mobility as a result of excess weight or high BMI. The **consequences** are severe enough to impact on the choice of equipment, staffing levels and the environment.

Standard operating procedures or policies triggered by weight or BMI alone may be problematic.

# Obesity – Attitude Stigma and Bias

## Perceptions

Lazy

Weak willed

Dirty and unkempt

Unintelligent

Worthless

Ugly

Slow

Dull

## Consequences

Patient can feel rejected

Healthcare professionals not immune.

May delay in seeking medical treatment

Condition likely to be worse on admission

<http://www.yaleruddcenter.org/>

**Staff health and safety**

Impact

**Management Systems**

1. Legislation
2. NHS-LA Risk management standards
3. Patient risk assessment
4. Environmental risk assessment
5. Local policies
6. Collaborative policies
7. Education and training
8. Ergonomic assessments
9. Human Factors

**Research**

Impact

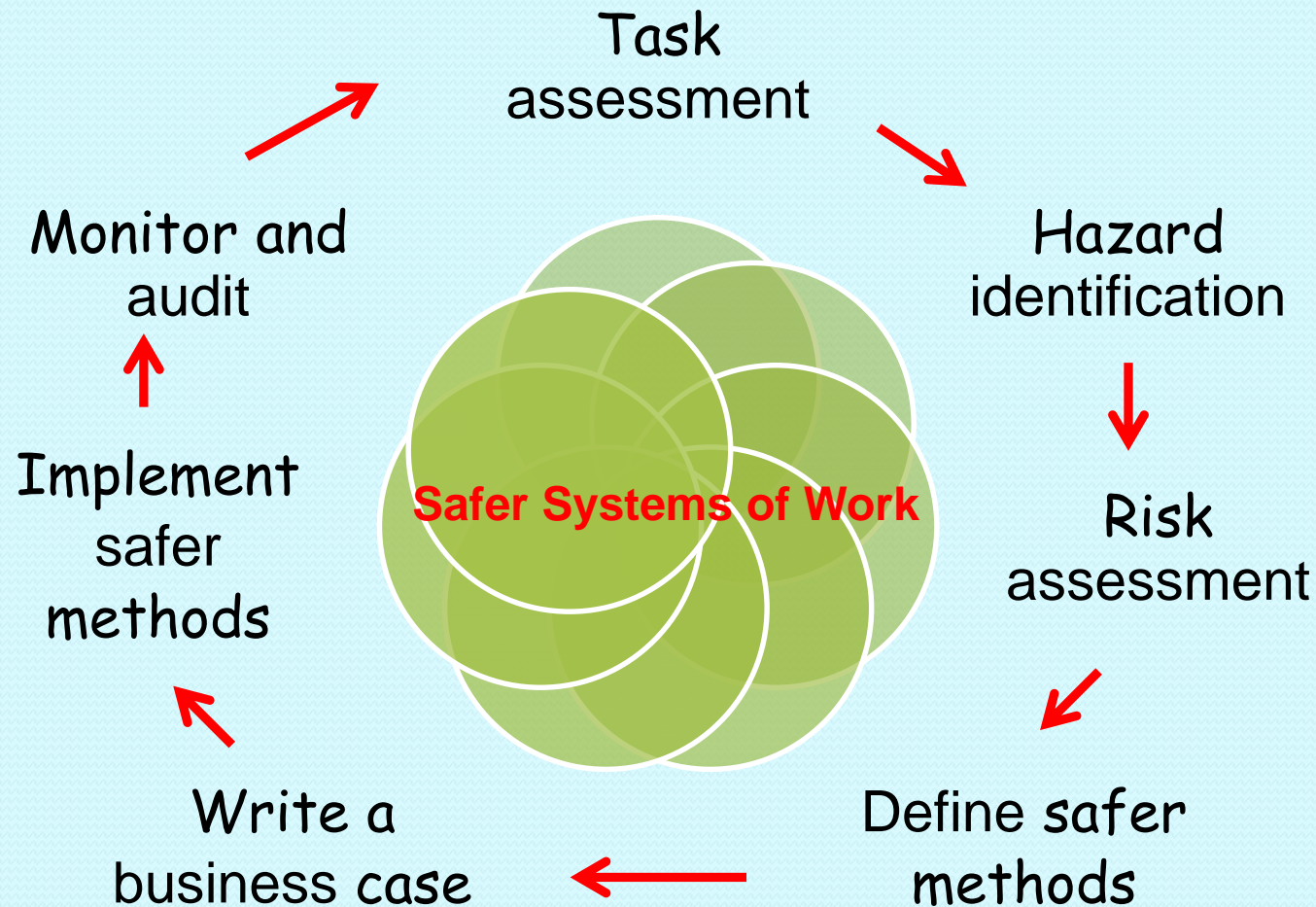
Impact

**Audit**

Impact

**Patient care and safety**

# Simplistic Model - Safer System of Work



# Approach to Risk Assessment and Management

Use  
risk  
matrix  
scoring  
5 x 5

Walk the route

Consider Infrequent but foreseeable hazards

Refer to legislation

Use published evidence

Refer to case law

Include recurring costs

Write a sound report

Involve the workforce

# Report Writing - Format

Background Information



What circumstances triggered the report e.g. bid for surgical contract

Observations



What did you see – what information was gathered

Conclusion



Summarise your findings

Recommendations



Outline a plan with specific guidance

Risk matrix scoring



Assign a level of risk

Agenda item



Ensure the report is logged as an agenda item

# Potential Hazards

May be emergency or elective admissions

## Areas of Concern





# Hazards and controls

## Specific problems

## Controls / Solutions

Pushing Trolleys



Motorised, Big Wheel, SWL

Bed capacity design



Width adjustable, Low height

Seating capacity design



SWL – Suitable dimensions

Wheelchair



SWL – Suitable dimensions

Transportation chair



Powered – SWL, dimensions

Walking frame



SWL – Suitable dimensions

Clothing



Appropriate size

Radiology, CT, MRI



Table SWL – Tube apertures

# Hazards and controls cont

## Specific problems

Hoisting

Slings

Commode

Operating table

Weighing scales

Lateral Transfers

Deceased

Mortuary



## Controls / Solutions

Overhead systems preferred – c/w integral scales

SWL, shape, compatibility

SWL, dimensions, cleaning

SWL, profiling, dimensions

Dimensions, capacity, discreet

Air assisted technology, low friction slide sheets. MD350®

Concealment trolleys, XCcube®

Wide fridges, Height adjustable PM table



A typical scenario - morbidly obese patient (250kg)  
spending many hours in a recliner chair

Think about the load you are pushing, 250kg patient + 150kg bed or trolley!

### Other factors

- Friction
- Wheel size / composition
- Handle height
- Posture
- Distance
- Frequency



Pushing and pulling hazards often overlooked  
Steep corridors 1 in 12 incline



Pushing and pulling is potentially hazardous, it is easy to exceed the guidelines

Consider shear forces

HSE Guidelines



**Brace T. (2005)** The Dynamics of pushing and pulling in the workplace – Assessing and Treating the Problem. AAOHN Journal May 2005 Vol53 No5 P224-229

**Waters T. et al (2011)** AORN Ergonomic Tool No7 Pushing, Pulling, and Moving Equipment on Wheels  
AORN Journal Sept 2011 Vol 94 No3 p254-260

Risk control  
mechanise the process



Bed and Trolley Drivers

Bed choice does it matter?



Bed too narrow is uncomfortable for the patient  
bed too wide causes risk of stooping for the staff



Gantry systems good  
Ceiling track is better



Overhead hoist systems preferred



Be very aware of maximum  
safe working loads



Equipment can fail – If maximum  
SWL is exceeded

Air assisted systems  
from floor level



Air assisted systems can improve post fall  
recovery from floor level and especially for plus size patients



Air assisted raising and lateral transfer devices used together will facilitate most retrievals from floor level. An expanded capacity spinal board will facilitate the recovery of bariatric patients who may have suspected spinal injuries





XCcube® concealment system reduces 1 lateral transfer

## Consider Total Care Systems



MD350® Innovative design  
providing safe care with dignity



MD350® Total Care System

Plus size wheelchairs are  
Available – how do you  
push them?



Powered chairs are essential  
gap in the UK market

# Methodology Does it Work?

- Results for one project using outlined methodology

Powered Trolleys £29600	Hovortech Devices £9190	Powered transportation chairs £10200
Bariatric Beds £26400	Dynamic Mattresses £15840	Riser recliner chairs £8832
Static Chairs £1000	Weighing scales £2000	Plinths £3600
Hoist / Scales £4000	Toilet support £1000	Commodes £1000

£112,662 Approved



# Summary

- Understand the importance of management systems
- Walk the entire route – collaborate with end users
- Use a model – safer systems of work
- Consider lifting, pushing and pulling hazards
- Include falls recovery from floor level
- Take time to write a structured report
- Ensure the report reaches the correct forum
- Use risk matrix scoring
- Take photographs – helps budget holders understand

# Thank you

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