

CARE OF THE BARIATRIC RESIDENT

General Guidelines

Bariatric Residents Because of specific clinical needs and special equipment requirements, when bariatric individuals seek healthcare services or enter into the system (long-term care), they may have a difficult time receiving appropriate care. Following are suggestions to assist the Health Care Workers (HCW) in addressing these issues for the bariatric resident. The bariatric resident may choose to be an active participant or a non-participating resident in the Bariatric Program.

Description The following qualify a person as a bariatric resident:

1. Weight in excess of three hundred (300) pounds or more, the limit of most standard equipment.
2. Weight that causes decreased mobility or self-care skills or that compromises function and/or independence.
3. Weight that inhibits health.

Bariatric Team The multi-disciplinary bariatric team may consist of:

1. Nursing Services
2. Dietary Services
3. Physician Services
4. Psychological Services
5. Rehabilitation Services
6. Therapeutic Recreational Services
7. Social Services

Comorbidities

The following is a list of comorbidities medically treated and frequently associated with bariatric residents. They may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Sleep Apnea
2. Pulmonary Hypertension/Restrictive Pulmonary Disease
3. Deep Vein Thrombosis
4. Congestive Heart Failure
5. Insulin-Resistant Diabetes
6. Increased Abdominal Wall Weight
7. Lower Gastric pH
8. Skin Issues – cellulitis, rash, pressure injuries, stasis ulcers
9. Neuropathy
10. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
11. Gallbladder Disease
12. Osteoarthritis
13. Stress Incontinence
14. Some Forms of Cancer

Environmental Considerations

The following is a list of environmental considerations associated with the bariatric resident:

1. Elevator Weight Limits
2. Floor Load Limits
 - Wood sub-flooring over crawl space
3. Emergency Services
 - a. Ambulance availability
 - b. Gurney availability
 - c. Hospital service availability
4. Room Placement
 - a. First floor availability unless resident is ambulatory and able to descend stairs in an emergency
 - b. Shower room with walk-in or wheel-in access
5. Door Width
 - a. Dining room, rehabilitation services gym, therapeutic recreational services area
 - b. Fire Department awareness
 - c. Appropriate egress for entrance/exit