

Bariatric Care

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Bariatric Care Policy is to provide clear guidelines and responsibilities for clients, employees, service providers and funders regarding the appropriate planning and provision of safe quality care to bariatric people by support workers and nurses in the community work environment.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all employees of Subee Newlake. All clients that meet the below definition should be made aware of this policy that guides their safe service provision.

3. Definition

Bariatric: - person can be defined as anyone who is obese and where their body size restricts their mobility, health, or access to available services.

The term "Bariatric" has come to be used to describe obese and severely obese people, regardless of whether or not they are receiving treatment for their obesity.

In order to assist with the identification and subsequent management of obese and bariatric clients, the following definition is proposed:

Person who fits two (2) or more of the following criteria:

- Weighs ≥ 120 kg
- BMI (Body Mass Index) ≥ 35 (BMI = weight (kg) / height (m)²)
- Seated hip width >20 " (51 cms)

4. Background

Services to a bariatric client are in principle no different to any other person, however due to their size, weight or body dynamics of a person, special consideration may be required to aspects such as: • manual handling • work

health and safety issues • skin integrity • circulation • promoting client independence • weight bias, physical causes of, and psychological issues related to, obesity As client involvement and service direction has increased it is imperative to involve the client in all aspects of the service delivery and the direction of their services to their ability. It is further acknowledged that dignity of risk is an important part of this choice and control.

5. Procedure

Service provider

Service Provider Bariatric clients will have additional or particular needs, which must be addressed if they are to be managed in a dignified and respectful manner.

Clients service delivery will consider the need for developing:

- Systems in place and adequate staffing for safe client management and support worker safety
- Education and support regarding their mental, physical and social health issues
- Compassion and understanding from support workers, carers, family and the general public
- Coordinated medical, dietary and psychological health care management
- The need to promote independence
- Appropriate design and access features to all areas in the home, community facilities and transport vehicles
- Access to affordable furniture and equipment appropriate to their weight, size and body shape
- Access to clothing and hygiene aids appropriate to their weight, size and body shape
- Particular attention to skin integrity
- Observation of circulation (colour of extremities)
- Maintain clean dry skin
- Active involvement in decision-making affecting their health, welfare and social wellbeing

P- Bariatric Care Policy	Printed docs are uncontrolled. View current documents on Subee Intranet	
V1	1/04/2023	Page 1 of 3

Bariatric Care

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Subee will consider when planning that bariatric clients may:

- Be slower and hence take longer with their activities of daily living
- Be likely to have increased levels of pain due to the presence of moderate to severe physical disabilities
- experience stress incontinence
- have poor circulation
- become breathless easily
- be prone to poor skin integrity
- be likely to have reduced function and poor balance
- suffer from depression and anxiety

For service delivery Subee will:

- Assess initial care needs with the client. Including (if required) a manual handling assessment and manual handling plan.
- Ensure that any lifting device is approved for the weight of the client
- Consider if an Occupational Therapist should participate in the planning process for the client and their equipment needs
- Develop plans with identified outcomes, considering the specific needs of a bariatric client
- Provide written procedures on manual handling for support worker/s.
- Identify education needs for support workers. Provide relevant competency based education and assessment processes for the support worker/s to ensure they are competent to perform the prescribed duties, tasks and interventions
- Monitor, review, evaluate and adapt as required the service, plans and outcomes with the involvement of the client
- Manage the maintenance and repairs/replacement of the equipment required

Guidelines for Subee care workers and clinical staff

DON'T • Lift, lower, push, pull, otherwise move, hold or restrain any of the client's body weight (unaided)

MAY: • Perform any task on the plan

• Use hands on assistance to guide movement only

MUST: • Follow the plan as provided by the service provider

• Not change the plan

• If a client requires more than guidance only, report immediately to their supervisor

• Take part in training on use of equipment, manual handling and risk management as determined by the service provider

• Identify, and report to their supervisor, any gaps in their ability to deliver the required service including difficulties in completing the tasks within the allocated time

6. Principles to handling a Bariatric Client

- o Ask the client how they normally do the task?
- o Plan the task – take a second to check yourself, the equipment, the environment and the client
- o Are there any obstacles and space restrictions?
- o Is the equipment required appropriate?
- o Is the furniture used to pull up on sturdy?
- o Does the client have fragile and/or sweaty skin?
- o Does the client need rest breaks?
- o Allow plenty of time for the client to complete the task/transfer
- o Do NOT let the client hold onto you during any task
- o Communicate sensitively with the client to help put them at ease
- o Do not stand right next to the client

P- Bariatric Care Policy	Printed docs are uncontrolled. View current documents on Subee Intranet	
V1	1/04/2023	Page 2 of 3

Bariatric Care

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

- Use the Points of Control i.e. hip/buttock and shoulder area for MINIMAL directional assistance only
- Ensure the client has their balance once standing before moving
- Check if the client has a manual handling plan
- Participate in training and techniques of safe manual handling

Risk Management

Subee clients identified as bariatric will meet the high needs criteria and marked so on TRACK.

Emergency Preparedness Plan section of TRACK will identify the need if 000 is called to state a bariatric ambulance will be required.

The client's support plan will outline a community access plan and how to transport and support the client in the community.

Bariatric clients will have clinical oversight by Subee Newlake registered nurses every 3-6 months.

REMEMBER

Specific bariatric equipment needs to be utilized throughout care and service provision;

- Additional time and resources need to be allocated for caring for a bariatric client;
- Additional assessment is required to consider skin integrity needs;
- Monitor diabetic risk factors;

P- Bariatric Care Policy	Printed docs are uncontrolled. View current documents on Subee Intranet	
V1	1/04/2023	Page 3 of 3