



# Safe Bariatric Patient Handling Toolkit



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# Overview of Toolkit

## Purpose

Approximately one of every three people in the United States is obese. This phenomenon presents a challenge for caregivers in their handling and transfers of these patients and places them at an increased risk for injury. In an attempt to reduce this risk, we have developed several tools to assist in bariatric care. The purpose of this toolkit is to provide healthcare staff with clinical tools, resources, educational materials, policies and safety tips.

## Goal

The goal of this toolkit is to enhance safety for both patients and caregivers. The CD is designed to provide “Just In Time” training for staff and to foster dignified, comfortable and safe care for bariatric patients.

## Content

- CD titled “Helpful Tips for Safe Patient Handling of Bariatric Patients”
- Medical Conditions Affecting Bariatric Patients
- Assessment Form and Algorithms
- Equipment Safety Checklist
- Policy Template
- Bariatric Technology Resource Guide
- Quiz
- Bibliography

## Suggested Use of Toolkit

We recommend that all staff performing patient transfers review all of the items. The equipment safety checklist and technology resource guide should be made available to staff who are responsible for procuring equipment. Assessment forms and use of algorithms should be part of an annual competency training for new and existing employees. Discussion should occur amongst staff on medical conditions of bariatric clients and the consequences of moving and handling them. Please feel free to add to any of these items and tailor them to the needs of your unit/facility.

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