NHS Children's Acute Transport Service

CATS Bariatric Patient Transfer Safety

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Bariatric Patient Transfer Guidance

Health and safety

The aim of this document is to lead the process planning, assessment and management of manual handling risks including the number of staff, provision of appropriate equipment required for the safe and timely transfer of the child into intensive care.

The purpose of the document is to assist CATS in identifying those patients that may require specialist ambulance transfer using the bariatric services which are now provided by regional ambulance services without placing either the child or staff at unnecessary risk.

Risks not only relate to the patient but also our staff, and this assessment ensures that both are kept safe. (HSE 2007)

To mitigate any risk CATS have undertaken a risk assessment of the intensive care trolley's capability from a maximum weight perspective taking in to account the maximum allowable load for an intensive care trolley.

Key factors/risk for manual handling such as weight, shape, mobility as well as issues relating to dignity, comfort, safety and privacy have a huge impact on the child and family.

Weight and more pertinently shape might limit equipment options in our population group.

A bariatric patient is defined as; anyone regardless of age who has a Body Mass Index (BMI) of > 40Kgs/per Metre sq and or are 40kgs above ideal weight for height (NICE 2004).

Exceeds the working load limit (WLL) and **dimensions of the support surface** such as a bed, trolley, or mattress. (This impacts on our ability to transport these patients safely as the CATS stretcher is not wide enough to take the load)

This means that they may not be supported within the services existing equipment provision.

The trolley chassis, which our system is based on has a static payload capacity of 200kgs - including the aerosled. In accordance with BSEN 1789, Paraid completed analysis on the structure which was based around a 75kg dummy and saw solid results up to 100kgs (patient and aerosled) in a simulation.

Taking in to consideration all of the above circumstances it may be necessary to enlist the help of specialist bariatric equipment/trolley possibly including a vehicle to assist with undertaking the transfer.

It is important that we maintain as high a standard as possible in relation to safety standards and that the risk benefit ratio has been carefully considered when it comes to the handling and securing of the CATS intensive care kit on the bespoke stretcher and within the bariatric vehicle.

The CATS team will continue to deliver the clinical care.

Once the patient has been identified as “at risk” by the CATS consultant the following process must be followed.
The team reaching the patient must not be delayed and the sourcing of the appropriate equipment/vehicle can happen in tandem.
The team can be transported to the referring hospital by the CATS standard vehicle if required

The bariatric trolley which can fit the CATS vehicle (if available) can be sourced from SJA. Please call 0203617999 requesting the bariatric stretcher.

Sourcing an appropriately equipped vehicle:

The following organisations can be contacted to source a bespoke vehicle.

1) St John Ambulance has an established bespoke vehicle for such an event. Should our service require such a vehicle they can be contacted on the following number 0203 6179999.

2) London Ambulance Service can be contacted on: Direct line: 0800 169 5718 or 020 7463 2690 as an ad hoc service (Must be a clinician referral)

These services include specially trained staff in the use of this equipment and the safe handling of patients.

Their vehicle contains the following specific equipment necessary to transfer our patient cohort safely:

- Megasus bariatric ambulance trolley which has a load capacity of up to 300kg and has extending side platforms for patient comfort
- Camel/ELK inflatable lifting devices for lifting patients to a sitting position with a weight limit of up to 450kg
- Air slide lateral transfer mattress which allows patients up to 544kg to be moved with the minimum of ease
- Hoist
- Wheel chair and trolley winch.

Reference

Risk assessment and process planning for bariatric patient handling pathways. Health Service Executive. (Research report) 2007.