

Bariatric Resources are difficult to find if the patient is over 350lbs. This is a cutoff point for majority of services and equipment. The next level up goes to 500-550lbs, anything over that point is even more difficult to obtain.

If your patient is Medicaid, the caseworker needs to be involved as soon as possible! If one of the issues is equipment, the caseworker may be able to tap into what is known as K Plan Monies. The caseworker will need our help in providing notes and physician letters supporting the need for the equipment. This can be a lengthy process of up to two months. May need to be involved by communicating with OMAP/DHS in Salem supervisors or your elected officials to get Salem to move on the issue. If more caregiver assist is needed at home, there is a process for exceptions that the caseworker can also tap into. Again, a lengthy process in Salem and good supportive documentation is needed. If the paid caregiver is a spouse, this does not exclude them from getting more help. It is an unrealistic expectation that an immobile bariatric patient can be cared for by a single person and especially if the right equipment is not made available to the patient to meet their needs.

Since January 1, 2016, Equipment vendors are no longer renting **bariatric equipment rated over 350lbs** as the reimbursement rate is too low. Medical Equipment is purchase only. If a patient has a managed medicare advantage plan, commercial insurance or workers compensation, they may consider purchase of equipment, especially if a need is demonstrated. **Detailed information regarding needs from therapists, wound care nurses and physicians will be necessary.** In order to present as complete a packet as possible to the equipment vendor and the insurance, a letter of necessity from the physician should be considered. This may help reduce delay times or even an outright denial at the time of request. Planning for equipment needs to be started on day one as the equipment will need to be ordered and can take up to 10 working days to get once the referral process is started.

The following equipment is generally rated to 350lbs and available at most equipment vendors in the Eugene-Springfield area. Include height and weight on the order so that the vendor can determine if their equipment will work.

Hospital beds

Walkers

Wheelchairs

Mechanical lifts

Bathroom equipment

\*\*\*\*Trillium OHP as a secondary insurance may be willing to work on equipment needs but the vendor **must** bill the primary insurance first and receive a denial letter before they will look at the request. Check with the other OHP plans to see if they will do the same.

### **Bariatric Equipment over 350lbs rating.**

It is worth calling local vendors for walkers and wheelchairs. Other equipment is not available as a general rule. None of the local vendors keep super morbidly obese products in stock and do not have a vendor to get this equipment from. The following are vendors that carry equipment for the super morbidly obese: **Please note that mechanical lifts and hospital bed systems for this weight range are almost always fully electric so that there is decreased chance of injury to patient and caregiver.** These companies have distribution offices in the Portland area and do provide equipment services/ repairs. All have web sites that you can compare products.

**A word of caution, as a general rule purchasing bariatric or any medical equipment from a supplier over the internet is not recommended for anything with moving parts that might need repair as these vendors do not have the service technicians to come to the house to repair the item. There may be limited warranties but this is a case of buyer beware!**

**Arjo** 800-323-1245/ 888-389-2756 fax. They have beds, air overlay mattresses, lifts and transfer systems, bathing equipment.

**SizeWise** 800-814-9389. They have beds, air overlay mattresses, lifts, wheelchairs and bathing equipment, wheelchairs.

**Hill Rom** 800-445-3730. They have beds, air overlay mattresses, lifts and bathing equipment.

**Wheel Chairs of Kansas** 800-537-6454/ fax 800-337-2447. They have beds, air overlay mattresses, a mechanical lift that goes to 1000lbs, bathroom equipment, wheel chairs, bathroom equipment.

**InvaCare** 800-333-6900/ 877-619-7996. They have a full range of equipment.

### **PHYSICIANS/CLINICAL SERVICES**

There are no physicians at this time willing to come to the patient's home. In general, the clinics are relying on home health agencies to make assessments for them and it is mostly phone contact if there is a problem.

Things to consider when talking with clinic offices is to find out door widths to accommodate wide walkers and wheelchairs or gurneys, what type of exam tables do they have, space in the waiting room etc. Typically, most of the super bariatric patients can't be up long without skin breakdown or fatigue so this needs to be a consideration as well. Ability to get transport to and from appointments is also a consideration. This can be quite costly for private pay individuals.

**PeaceHealth Oregon Bariatric Center:** 3377 Riverbend Dr, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Springfield, OR 97477 541-222-2700/ fax 541-222-6113. Follows the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery: Patients should be at least 100 pounds overweight, have a BMI of 40 or higher, and have no alcohol, drug or smoking problem. Patients with a BMI of 35 to 39.9 may be candidates if they have one or more co-morbidities (e.g., high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, heart disease). Generally speaking they can work with patients with a BMI up to 60. Referrals should

come from the primary care provider. Patients need to demonstrate the ability to lose weight prior to surgery and go through counseling—a comprehensive program is developed at the clinic with the provider and their team.

**OHSU Bariatric Services:** 3303SW Bond Ave Portland, OR 97239 503-494-1983/ fax 503-418-3683. They also follow the above guidelines. They have worked with patients up to a BMI of 75 and have more complex comorbidities. Again, a referral from the primary care provider is preferred.

**Salem Hospital Bariatric Surgery Center:** 890 Oak St Salem, OR 97301 503-561-5200. They follow the same guidelines as the other bariatric centers. Require referral from primary care provider. The only additional condition they make is that the patient needs to have stopped smoking 6 weeks prior to the first consult appointment and smoke free for life.

**Lab draws:** Work with each individual physician clinic on home lab draws as you would for any other patient that is homebound.

**Lymphedema Management:** Home Health agencies may be able to provide this service. Locally, only **Sacred Heart Home Health** does at this time. The thing to consider is that most insurances will authorize lymphedema management through home health if the end game is to get fitted for a compression garment, not indefinite wrapping services. Outpatient clinics include:

**Sacred Heart Outpatient Wound Care Clinic**—referral needs to come from the primary care provider and has extensive wait list.

**Healing Spirits Integrative Health Clinic** 541-683-1125 1355 Oak St Eugene, OR. This clinic has two lymphedema specialists in clinic. They take most commercial insurance, medicare with a secondary supplemental insurance and OHP, Trillium. Requires a referral from primary care provider.

**Oregon Medical Group Physical Therapy Westmoreland Clinic** 541-686-1916. Charles Davis is a lymphedema specialist at this clinic. It is open to any patient with a referral from primary care provider subject to insurance approval.

**Peace Health Medical Group Sleep Study Center**—the sleep clinic can accommodate a patient to 800lbs. They need to be notified of any mobility needs and if dependent for care, caregivers would need to come with the patient.

**McKenzie Sleep Clinic**---541-744-8525. The sleep clinic can accommodate patients up to 1000lbs. They can provide a 1:1 attendant but if dependent for care, caregivers need to be with patient. They can get a hooyer lift if needed, would like to be notified any special mobility needs. They cannot see patients under the age of 13yrs old

## **FACILITIES—Local**

Marquis---limit is 350lbs

Pinnacle Buildings (Green Valley, Hillside Heights, South Hills)---limit is 400-450lbs

Valley West---limit is 400lbs

Creswell Care Center---limit is 400lbs

Riverpark---limit is 600lbs

Eugene Rehab---limit is 500lbs

Coast Fork---limit is dependent on mobility status. Will consider up to 600lbs if mobile and no more than assist x2. In general though, average out to 450lbs.

Grandview---limit is 300lbs

Good Samaritan---limit is 550lbs

Florence Regency---limit is 600lbs. They will consider heavier weight if the equipment can be covered by insurance on a case by case basis.

## **FACILITIES---Out of Area**

Avamere---weight limit is 300-350lbs for majority of buildings. Can ask the liaison about a particular out of area facility but this is the general rule of thumb.

Pinnacle—weight limit is 400-450lbs

Sheridan Care Center—Sheridan, OR—can take pts up to 800lbs comfortably. They have overhead lifts. Essentially, they have a bariatric suite that is a shared room for 2 people, so the drawback is that they need to be the same gender, so timing is everything. They will consider increased weights on case by case basis.

Fernhill, Portland---limit is 350lbs, mostly due to the size of their rooms and the facility is not set up with wide showers.

Pacific Care, Tigard---limit is 400lbs.

Myrtle Point---limit is 300lbs, the nursing facility is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Pt would need to be fairly mobile.

## **FUNERAL**

**Musgrove Family Mortuaries**—this includes Lane County Memorial Gardens, West Lawn Memorial Park, Springfield Memorial Gardens, England's Creswell Memorial, Smith-Lund-Mills Cottage Grove, Poole-Larson, AlphaCremation Services and Aurora Cremation Services

cemeteries and funeral homes. In general, the crematoria is able to accommodate up to **700lbs but is dependent on width of the body**. There is an extra cost for anyone over 400lbs. If a regular casket funeral is desired, caskets can be ordered up to a 3x width and extra cemetery plots are usually required. Embalming is still possible.

**Andresen's Cremation and Burial Services**--- this includes Buell Chapel. Limit is 500lbs. There is a charge for over 400lbs. They also have the larger caskets and again, would need to buy 2 burial plots. He suggested using the Pleasant Hill Cemetery as they charge an all inclusive fee of \$600 per plot.

Other funeral homes in the area use Andresen's or Musgrove for cremation services. They are able to obtain extra width caskets. Again, there is additional cost for these services.

**Crown Memorial**---503-783-3393---this is in Portland. Area funeral homes use this as a last resort if body width is too great or over 700lbs. The thing to know about this crematoria is that it is also used for large animals such as horses or llamas etc. Could possibly have some cultural or religious implications for some patients/families. There is also the additional costs of transportation of the remains to that facility which can be quite spendy. Their charge is by the pound for the actual cremation. They also arrange the transport to the crematoria.

\*\*\*Please note that all of the funeral homes stressed that they really want to make whatever accommodation they can to keep the remains in this area if possible. They recognize that this is a very stressful time for families. None of the funeral homes were willing to discuss what the additional costs were for their services.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**Express Care Mobility**---541-726-2010. Wheelchair lift can accommodate 800lbs and 34in wheelchair width. Tries to limit it though to 550lbs. Also has a stretcher that can accommodate 700lbs.

**Special Care Transport**---541-746-6779. Wheelchair lift can accommodate 800lbs and 37in wheelchair width.

**Handi-Cabs**---541-342-3003. Wheelchair lift can accommodate 800lbs and 34in wheelchair lift.

**Ride Source**--- 541-682-5566. Did not return calls. Historically the lifts on their vans went to 750lbs and were 32in wide.

**Metro West**---541-747-4025. Wheel chair van transport can accommodate up to 800lbs but the wheelchair is not reclining. There is ambulance transport in conjunction with Eugene-Springfield Fire Ambulance services. The bariatric ambulance can take up to 1650lbs, this is a special winch gurney. They would like as much lead time as possible because they need to coordinate with EMS for additional crews.

