

Bariatric assessments

Considerations:

- Patients weighing more than 28 stone.
- Patients who are filling the width of the standard profiling bed.
- There needs to be a clinical need not a want or desire for a larger bed.
- The equipment **must** go in a downstairs room.
- Tissue Viability Team will risk assess the amount of space required.
- The patient **must** be accepting of the equipment provision.
- The patient **must** be aware that they will need to provide larger bedding.
- Consider – can the carers manage to move the patient in a larger bed?
- What type of mattress provision is required?
- Will the larger bed compromise the patient's ability to move/reposition?
- Will the patient require grab rails or cot sides?

Tissue Viability Team referral

A referral must be completed to Tissue Viability Team for assessment and include the following information:

- The reason the patient meets with the above criteria.
- Weight/BMI if known.
- Any moving and handling problems and/or current restrictions.
- What equipment the patient is currently using.
- An overview of skin integrity.
- Location of the bed.
- What carer/family support the patient has.
- Past medical history.
- Patient consent has been obtained.
- The risk of non-provision.

The patient should be made aware that referral to Tissue Viability Team is not confirmation that the equipment will be provided. They should be made aware that all special-order equipment will need to go to BACES panel for approval and the process can take more than 6-8 weeks.