

Bucks County Emergency Medical Service Bariatric Units

Mission: Assist Emergency Medical Services in Bucks County with transportation of bariatric patients. Provide safe emergency transportation for bariatric patients in need of emergency care in Bucks County. Provide emergency transportation for bariatric patients in a dignified way.

Service Requirements:

1. Must have a Type I or Type III ambulance.
2. Service must be willing to respond anywhere within Bucks County when requested.
3. Services that receive state/county funding for this unit and choose to withdraw from providing bariatric unit support services for Bucks County must return equipment purchased with the money to the region or return the money.

Service who has documented trended poor performance (i.e. failure to respond) will be removed from the program. The service must return equipment purchased with the money to the region or return the money.

** Poor performance will be determined by a sub-committee with one representative from each of the following groups: Regional EMS office, Bucks County Squad Chief's Assoc. Bucks County Health Council, and Bucks County Medical Advisory Committee.*

Equipment Requirements:

1. Bariatric Litter- Ambulance stretcher rate for 1000 pounds
2. Winch and Ramps
3. Transfer Flat or similar device
4. Consider suspension upgrades for vehicle

Recognition:

1. Service must agree to all requirements and expectations within this document.
2. Maximum of three units within Bucks County. One unit per region (north, central, south). Service must demonstrate need for more than one unit in given region.
3. Service must be recognized by the Regional EMS Office as one of three regional bariatric support units to receive funding as outline.

Definition:

Bariatric Patient – Patient weighing 400 pounds or more. Patients who are wider than 26 inches.

Request/Dispatch:

1. Initial EMS responders onscene will request for a bariatric support unit via Bucks County Communications Center when they encounter a bariatric patient and they believe assistance will be needed to transport the patient.
2. Units designated as bariatric support units will be identified in the CAD's info file. Baraitric support units have a 10 minute scratch time.
3. Bariatric support units will use BSU and station ID as their identifiers i.e. BSU 168

Response:

1. Bariatric Support unit crew requirements- Support unit must have a minimum of a driver that meets minimum requirements to operate an ambulance in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Crew must be trained and proficient on the use of all the bariatric equipment.
2. Requesting crew will advise bariatric unit of the needed response mode needed (emergent L&S or emergent no L&S)

Onscene:

1. Initial EMS providers will continue patient until care is transferred to a receiving medical facility. Bariatric support unit will provide transportation and specialized bariatric equipment to move the patient to a receiving medical facility.
2. Requesting a bariatric support unit does eliminate the need for other assistance such as lifting and extrication.

Funding:

Due to complexity of ambulance billing; funding will be accomplished in the following manor. We will seek approval to allocate \$175.00 per transport to each of the recognized bariatric services from EMSOF. The funding will be reviewed annually to be certain services are appropriately fund.