



# BUCKS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

## Regional Treatment & Transfer Protocols

### Transportation of Bariatric Patients

(Guideline)

This "Guideline" may be adopted by any Emergency Medical Service licensed within the Bucks County Region. Services that choose not to adopt this "Guideline" must have alternative process within their service to meet the goal of this guideline.

**GOAL:** Provide safe emergency transportation for patients that exceed the weight and/or width of conventional ambulance stretchers who are in need of emergency care and make every attempt to maintain the patient's dignity.

Prevent provider injury while treating and transporting this patient population.

**Criteria:**

1. Patient who weighs 400 pounds or more.
2. Patient who are wider than 26 inches.

**Exclusions Criteria:**

1. Patient who are not in need of emergency transport to a local emergency department.

**Procedure:**

1. Request a Bariatric Support Unit via Bucks County Communications Center. Also request assistance from Fire Department for lift assistance and/or extrication if needed.
2. Provide patient care as outlined in state and regional protocols until the arrival of the bariatric support unit.
3. Bariatric support unit will provide bariatric transportation and specialized bariatric patient transfer equipment. The bariatric support unit will have a minimum of one provider who trained on the use of bariatric equipment.
4. The service providers who request the bariatric support unit will continue care during transport to the receiving facility.