Purpose:

To define a comprehensive approach to address the ambulance transportation of bariatric patients without harming the patient or our providers.

Policy:

Bariatric patients have the right to expect professional and timely emergency care and transportation, and providers have the obligation to deliver such care without risking their own health.

Every patient body composition is different, the provider will need to use dispatcher provided information and perform an in person assessment to determine whether special equipment will be needed to facilitate the transport of the patient.

Bariatric patients have the right to expect professional and timely emergency care and transportation, and providers have the obligation to deliver such care without risking their own health.

911 – Emergency Mutual Aid
When the determination is made, or mutual aid request received, that special moving equipment will be needed to facilitate the transport of a bariatric patient, the on-duty shift supervisor will be notified.

West Des Moines EMS maintains two Stryker MX-Pro Bariatric transport cots which reside at Station 19 and Iowa Methodist Medical Center. The on-duty supervisor will determine the best ambulance to respond, based on the location of the call for service,
to provide the most expedient response. S/he will assure that the vehicle is equipped with a MAC-Lift and Bariatric cot.

**In-Patient/Scheduled Transports**

When possible, dispatch should obtain the patient weight as well as body mass index. The on-duty shift supervisor should be notified of the pending bariatric transfer so s/he can determine if additional resources will be needed. The responding crew should assure that they have the appropriate equipment to safely complete the transport.

**Procedure:**

Bariatric patients have the right to expect professional and timely emergency care and transportation, and providers have the obligation to deliver such care without risking their own health.

The paramedic in-charge should assume the role of command/safety officer and develop a plan to extricate the patient in the safest manner. Development of a plan and communication between staff is essential. The paramedic in-charge should always be aware of patient and provider safety during the transfer process.

**Considerations:**

- Extra man power should be considered and requested as necessary. Adequate personnel must be on scene to limit the risk of injury to patient and staff.
- Proper body mechanics while lifting cannot be over emphasized.
- Each ambulance is equipped with a bariatric transport tarp that has several lifting handles.
- The use of the Prevalon Liftaem Mobile Patient Transfer System should be considered in moving the patient. This system is stored with each of the bariatric cots. Replacement mattresses may be obtained through any Unity Point-Des Moines Emergency Room.
- Ask the patient how to make the transport easier for them, what has worked well in the past.
- Crews should be sensitive to obesity discrimination:
  - Respect the individual and their privacy
  - Treat the patient with dignity and compassion
  - Avoid remarks or derogatory terms about size of equipment
- Notify receiving facility as soon as possible so they can arrange for the appropriate resources.
### Reference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device</th>
<th>Maximum Weight Limit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mega Mover – Transport Chair</td>
<td>350# (159kg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mega Mover Plus Portable Transport Unit</td>
<td>1000# (454kg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stryker Power Pro XT with XPS Option</td>
<td>700# (318kg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stryker MX-Pro bariatric transport – up position</td>
<td>850# (385kg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stryker MX-Pro bariatric transport – lowest position</td>
<td>1600# (725kg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevalon Liftaem Mat</td>
<td>1000# (454kg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mac’s Ambulance Lift</td>
<td>1300# (591kg)</td>
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