

<b>REGIONS HOSPITAL EMS</b>	
<b>POLICY/PROCEDURE:</b> <b>Bariatric Patient Treatment and Transport</b>	Page 1 of 1
<b>ISSUED BY:</b> Medical Director	No. 09-123
<b>DATE:</b> April 1, 2009	Supersedes: No.

**Purpose:**

Regions Hospital EMS recognizes the special needs of bariatric patients and the challenge they present to caregivers. This policy intends to provide a framework for providers to give effective, safe and dignified care to the bariatric patient while maintaining the safety of the EMS crew and minimizing the exposure to potential injury.

**Policy:**

1. All patients who require immediate 911 emergency transports will not be denied transportation. If the bariatric patient is too large to be transported by a service, the patient will receive medical care at the scene to attempt to stabilize the medical emergency until such time the appropriate equipment and transport vehicle can be secured for transportation.
2. All EMS agencies should have equipment designed to monitor and treat the bariatric patient.
3. All EMS agencies should have a written policy to address the following concerns:
  - a. Written guidelines on weight limits of stretchers, backboards, lifting tarps, ambulance load limits.
  - b. Guidelines regarding number of providers to be utilized for lifting for patients weighing over 400 LBS.
  - c. Procedures and policies for extricating large patients from places of residence.
  - d. Mutual aid agreements with agencies with specialized transport capabilities.