

Dr Tom Karplus  
Secretary  
Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation (NSW)  
Locked Bag 13  
GLEBE NSW 2037

Dear Dr Karplus

**Revised Guideline Work Health and Safety – Management of Patients with Bariatric Needs**

You are invited to comment on the draft guideline which is proposed to replace GL2005\_070 *Occupational Health & Safety Issues Associated with Management Bariatric (Severely Obese) Patients* using the feedback form provided.

The number of patients requiring health services who have bariatric needs is continuing to rise. Because of the unique safety, mobilisation, transport and clinical care issues involved for patients with bariatric needs, planning for their care and assessing risks is essential.

Patients that have bariatric needs are categorised as those over 120kg. A new category has been included within the guideline super bariatric which is defined as those patients over 250kg. These patients require further consideration as they exceed the size and weight limit of commonly found standard bariatric equipment.

There has been extensive revision of this guideline which now includes new and revised appendices to assist in developing local Bariatric Management Plans and risk management tools.

These appendices include:

**Appendix 1: Building Design Risk Assessment**

It will assist in assessing the risks and identifying the controls for safely managing these patients within the facility.

**Appendix 2: Bariatric and Super Bariatric Management Plan Content**

It provides an outline of what should be considered when developing a facility Bariatric Management Plan.

**Appendix 3: Risk Management Examples**

This appendix has been revised and updated to provide examples on controls to eliminate or minimise the risk of injury.

#### **Appendix 4: Patient Management Prior to Admission to Ward**

It provides a flow chart showing how to safely manage planned and unplanned admission of patients.

#### **Appendix 5: Patient Management Following Admission to Ward**

It provides a flow chart showing what actions need to be taken to ensure staff and patient safety once admitted.

#### **Appendix 6: Patient Assessment/Management of Deceased Patient**

It provides a checklist to help manage the movement of patients that are deceased.

#### **Appendix 7: Individual Patient Bariatric Needs Management Plan**

It assesses the risks and forms a plan to manage the patient safely at all stages while in the care of NSW Health.

#### **Appendix 8: Road Transport for Patients with Bariatric Needs**

It forms a plan for Patient Transport Services in managing transportation that meets the needs of the patient and the safety of staff.

#### **Appendix 9: Patient Assessment – Community Services**

It provides a checklist of what needs to be assessed to ensure the safety of patient and staff when NSW Health provides home care.

Please provide your comments to Angie Stanojevic at email [astan@doh.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:astan@doh.health.nsw.gov.au) by 13 October 2017. If you have any queries Angie can be contacted on telephone number 9391 9850.

Yours sincerely



Annie Owens  
**Executive Director**  
**Workplace Relations**

8/9/17

#### Attachments:

- Draft guideline Work Health and Safety – Management of Patients with Bariatric Needs – without track changes
- Draft guideline Work Health and Safety – Management of Patients with Bariatric Needs – with track changes
- Feedback form.