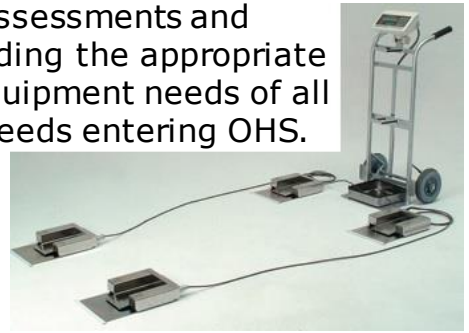
Bariatric Specialist Multi-Disciplinary Consultancy Service (Phone B-A-R-I)

Orange Health Service (OHS) is reasonably well equipped with specialised equipment, yet this pool is poorly managed, stored and maintained, resulting in inefficiencies, inappropriate prescriptions and unnecessary hiring of external equipment.

Planned and unplanned admissions of patients with bariatric needs are becoming more prevalent, representing an increased risk to the organisation in terms of staff and patient injury, equipment acquisition and maintenance, and cost of service (increased staffing, increased length of stay, greater need for specialised training).

This group is currently being transformed into a bariatric specialist multi-disciplinary consultancy service (Team B-A-R-I) which will provide individualised assessments and recommendations regarding the appropriate manual handling and equipment needs of all patients with bariatric needs entering OHS.



Stage 1

Objective identification of a patient with bariatric needs arriving in OHS ED:
- Establishment of formal definition
- Acquisition of bed & wheelchair scales for ED
- Establishment of BASK (Bariatric Assessment Starter Kit)
- Rollout of a local operating procedure for measuring height and weight of patients to identify patients with bariatric needs

Stage 2
- Review of current equipment pool
- Establishment of a tracking system for equipment
- Establishment of storage space for equipment

Stage 3
- Formal establishment of Team B-A-R-I
- Establishment of documentation process on eMR

Stage 4

Implementation of a referral hotline (B-A-R-I or 2274) with clear guidelines for overnight and weekends around the handling and equipment needs of new patients until a formal assessment by the team is performed and care plan established.

Stage 5

Consultancy service to be replicated in other facilities within Western NSW Local Health District, and supported via Telehealth. These strategies will ensure that patients with specialised needs will be assessed, treated and handled in a more consistent and equitable manner across the District.

Peter Young
OHS Physio Head of Department
peter.young1@health.nsw.gov.au

Natalie Papallo
OHS Senior Physio in Acute Care
natalie.papallo@health.nsw.gov.au