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# Graphic Paper: Moving and handling care of bariatric patients: a survey of clinical nurse managers

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*JRN* is delighted to bring you the graphic version of the last *JRN* Veronica Bishop Paper of the Year. You can link directly to the original article and its associated commentary by following the links at the end of the abstract. We hope you enjoy this – and would very much like to hear your comments, either through Twitter, Facebook or by email.

## Abstract

**Background:** The prevalence of obesity is rising, and obese persons are more likely to use healthcare services and require moving and handling care.

**Aims:** This study explored the frequency, logistics and barriers to the provision of bariatric patient-handling care including equipment availability in acute hospitals.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional study design using an anonymous 24-item questionnaire was used to survey 322 clinical nurse managers. Completed hard-copy questionnaires ( $n = 132$ ) were returned by post.

**Results:** Most clinical nurse managers (93.1%) provided care for bariatric patients and 85.6% reported barriers to the provision of bariatric care within their clinical area. The principal barriers were lack of equipment (75%), staff (65.2%) and training (57.6%). Only 11.4% owned all the required equipment. Owning equipment provided significantly greater access to a hoist ( $P = 0.001$ ) and chair ( $P = 0.032$ ) than renting. Only 9.5% reported that rented equipment always arrives on time. The majority (74.4%) did not have guidelines for caring for bariatric patients, and 46.2% considered this to be a barrier.

**Conclusions:** Barriers to caring for bariatric patients were identified. Most of the equipment was rented, and significant delays in its delivery were reported. The need for education and training and the dissemination of policies and guidelines were identified.

## Keywords

bariatric, barriers, equipment, moving and handling, nurses, obesity

## Original article:

Dockrell S and Hurley G (2021). Moving and handling care of bariatric patients: a survey of clinical nurse managers. *Journal of Research in Nursing* 26(3):194–204. doi: 10.1177/1744987120970623

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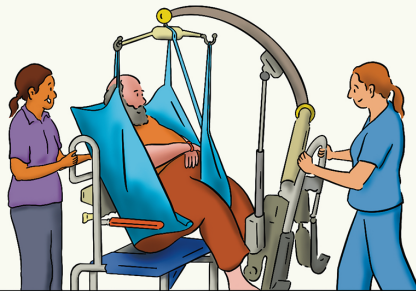
# Moving & Handling Care of Bariatric Patients: a survey of Clinic Nurse Managers

by Sara Dockrell & Graham Hurley

For this study,  
a 'patient with bariatric needs'  
is defined as being a person with:  
a BMI above 35kg/m<sup>2</sup>  
or a weight above 159kg

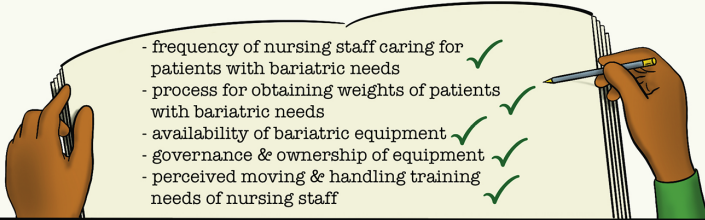


The global prevalence of obesity is rising. Patients with bariatric needs are more likely to require healthcare services and the Intensive Care Unit. Obesity has a detrimental effect on physiological systems and consequently the patients' needs are many and complex. This includes moving and handling patients with bariatric needs.



Objectives are to explore:

- frequency of nursing staff caring for patients with bariatric needs ✓
- process for obtaining weights of patients with bariatric needs ✓
- availability of bariatric equipment ✓
- governance & ownership of equipment ✓
- perceived moving & handling training needs of nursing staff ✓

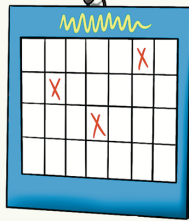


## METHODOLOGY

An anonymous questionnaire survey of hospital-based Clinical Nurse Managers (CNMs)

## Results

93% of CNMs provided care for patients with bariatric needs.



49% stated they provided care for up to 3 patients with bariatric needs in the previous month.

90% agreed patients' weights should be recorded within 24 hours of admission but...



...only 20% stated this 'always' happened.

86% reported barriers to the provision of bariatric care, principally a lack of:



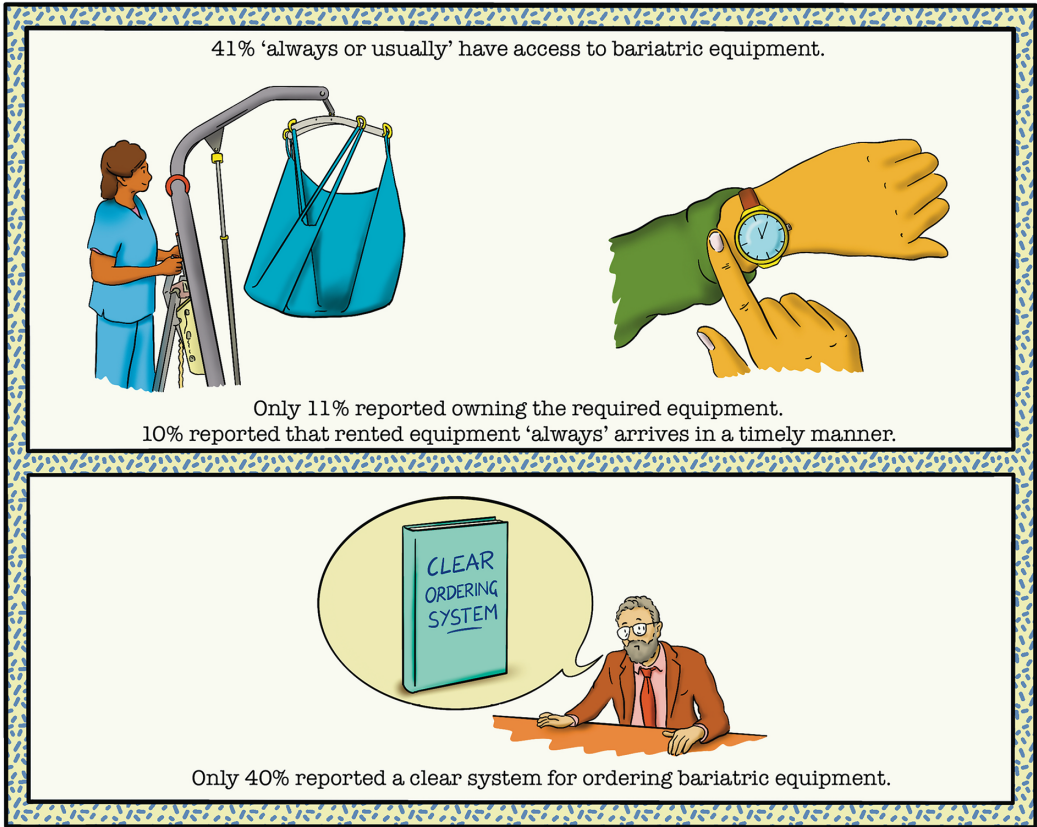
equipment (75%)



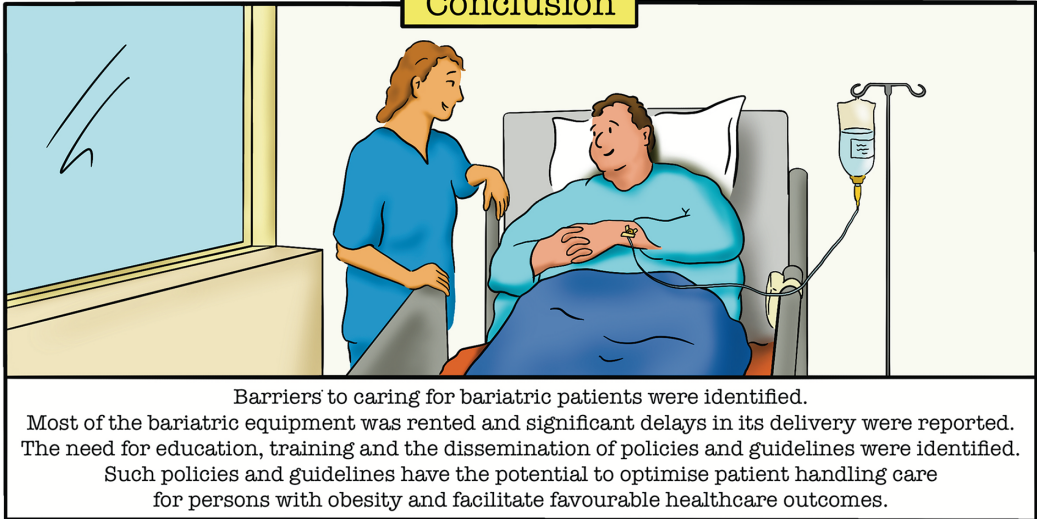
staff (65%)



training (58%)



**Conclusion**



Graphics by Alex Brenchley

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**Alex Brenchley** is an artist and cartoonist based in London. His work includes the cartoon series 'This England' for New Statesman magazine, and webcomic 'Life After Cancer' for the Wellcome Collection.