

DELIVERING PRESSURE AREA CARE FOR THE BARIATRIC PATIENT GROUP

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Introduction

According to NICE (2016) approximately a quarter of adults (26% of men and 24% of women) are obese and 41% of men and 33% of women were overweight (but not obese). In addition, 30% of boys and 29% of girls aged 2–15 are either overweight or obese. It has been estimated that the costs to society and the economy of overweight and obesity were almost £16 billion in 2017 (over 1% of GDP) and that this could reach almost £50 billion by 2050 if obesity rates continue to rise unchecked. (NICE 2016).

 IN 2016 APPROXIMATELY A QUARTER OF ADULTS WERE OBESE

 41% MEN AND 33% WOMEN WERE OVERWEIGHT

 30% BOYS AND 29% GIRLS EITHER OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE

Several studies indicate that obesity increases the risk of pressure ulceration (Drake et al 2010, Hyun et al 2014, Pokorny et al 2014) and the NPUAP, EPUAP, PPIA (2014) guidelines state that particular features of obesity include:

- ✓ Maceration.
- ✓ Inflammation.
- ✓ Tissue / skin necrosis.

Also increased weight on tissues increases vascular and lymphatic occlusion and can be responsible for skin complications.

“The costs to society and the economy of overweight and obesity were almost £16 billion in 2017... this could reach almost £50 billion by 2050”

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NPUAP et al (2014) go on to recommend that the individual is provided with a bed of appropriate size and weight capacity:

- ✓ Use beds that adequately support the weight of the individual.
- ✓ Check routinely for bottoming out of the support surface.
- ✓ Ensure that the bed surface area is sufficiently wide to allow turning of the individual without contact with the side rails of the bed.

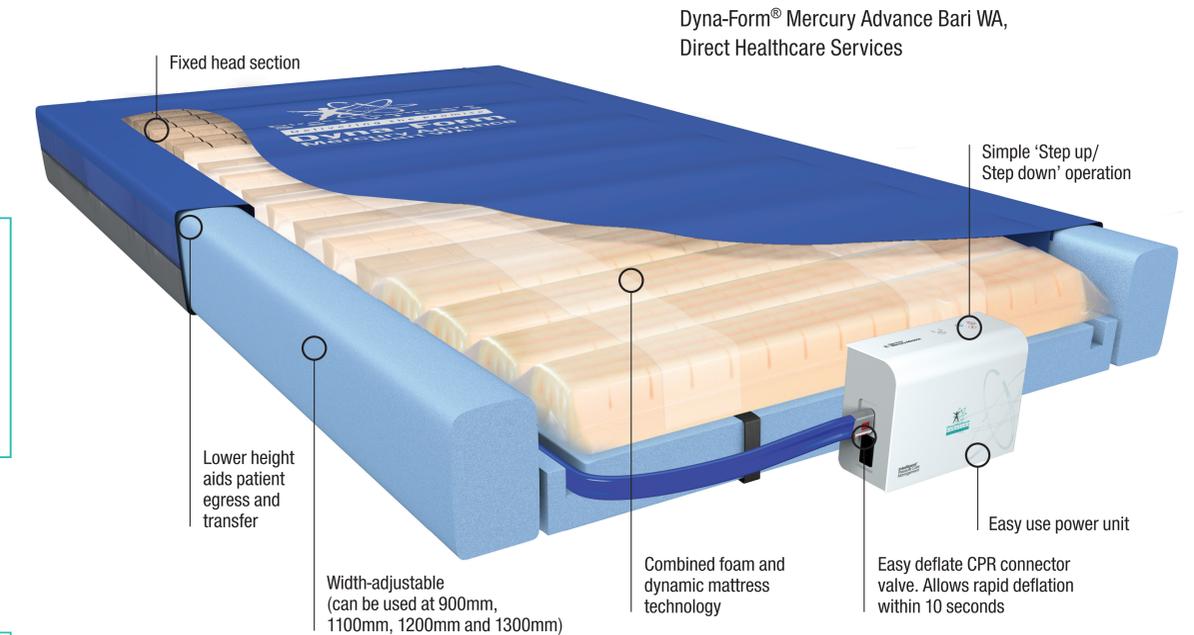
They also recommend that the clinician should consider selecting a support surface with enhanced pressure redistribution, shear reduction and microclimate control.

When selecting a mattress for a plus size patient key considerations include:

- ✓ What patient weight can it support – and also consider this in relation to the patient height.
- ✓ How does it redistribute pressure?
- ✓ What impact does it have on the local microclimate?
- ✓ How can it assist you with moving and handling?
- ✓ Will it affect friction and shear?
- ✓ Will it reduce the patient's independence?
- ✓ Consider ingress and egress.

Currently much of the provision of bariatric equipment in the UK is via the rental process with equipment being ordered in a reactive and ad hoc way from a limited number of providers. Many organisations procure bariatric equipment on a semi urgent basis when the patient is admitted as they do not have a predictable number of bariatric patients and storage of the larger sized equipment requires a lot of what is often limited space. This may result in the equipment provided differing from the rest of the pressure ulcer prevention equipment across the organisation.

Whilst this may reflect the specific needs of the patient, the 'user' i.e. the nursing staff experience should also be considered, with familiarity with equipment being acknowledged as improving the way that it is used as they understand how it works and how to use it leading to fewer instances of inappropriate use and better fault handling.



The Dyna-Form® Mercury Advance is a clinically proven, dynamic replacement system suitable for Very High Risk patients. The Dyna-Form® Mercury Advanced Bari WA is a specialist bariatric mattress replacement system that can help provide continuity of patient care for this complex group of patients. A higher maximum weight capacity (60 stone / 380kg) and a unique width adjustable feature (that can assist with logistical considerations) ensure this system can meet the practical and clinical demands of plus-sized patients. Offering high levels of patient comfort, this unique system has the facility to “step up” to that of a dynamic mattress when clinically required. Similarly, the mattress's function can be downgraded to “step down” as the patient's condition improves.

Conclusion

Selecting an appropriate mattress and frame can significantly enhance the life of larger patient allowing them greater comfort and independence without compromising their safety or increasing the risk of developing pressure ulcers.

References

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