



WE CARE LIKE FAMILY™

BARIATRIC EQUIPMENT

Healthcare for All Sizes



 (888) 396-2739

 [dynarex.com](https://www.dynarex.com)

[@dynarexcorp](https://www.instagram.com/dynarexcorp) 

marketing@dynarex.com 

Healthcare for All Sizes

Inclusivity is a hot topic in healthcare — and no wonder — as it aims to eliminate barriers to ensure full access for all individuals. Weight inclusivity in particular focuses on promoting health and well-being for people of all sizes. This is especially relevant for patients affected by obesity who find it challenging to access equipment that accommodates their unique needs. Fortunately, today's bariatric equipment is designed to help larger individuals with mobility and daily living activities.

Bariatric equipment is an essential component of patient care for individuals experiencing issues with weight or obesity. It is designed to provide greater levels of comfort, support, and safety — and it helps patients maintain their independence and dignity. It also allows healthcare providers to accommodate patients who may not be able to use standard medical equipment. It's important to note that not all individuals who are overweight or obese need bariatric equipment. However, for those who do, high-quality, properly fitting equipment is essential.

What Is Bariatric Equipment?

Bariatric equipment refers to equipment and supplies that are specifically designed for larger or obese patients. The term “bariatric” was coined in the 1960s, and comes from combining the Greek word *baros*, meaning weight, and *iatics*, which refers to medical treatment.

It’s important to note that equipment designed specifically for bariatric patients is not the same as products that are simply larger or oversized. Larger sized products may provide general support, but if the manufacturers haven’t considered the unique needs of bariatric patients, the equipment could still be unsuitable or even unsafe. Bariatric products are generally designed to support at least 500 pounds, and must meet certain safety standards to ensure they can safely support the increased weight capacity.

Who Is a Bariatric Patient?

For adults, ranges for normal weight, overweight, and obesity are commonly determined by using weight and height to calculate a number known as the “body mass index” (BMI). It is estimated that a person’s BMI correlates with their proportionate amount of body fat. According to this formula, an adult with a BMI between 25 and 29.9 is considered overweight. An adult with a BMI of 30 or higher is considered to be obese or in the bariatric category.

Bariatric individuals face a unique set of challenges. They may struggle with mobility, or experience discomfort or pain when using standard equipment. Without proper equipment, bariatric individuals may struggle to maintain independence and quality of life. Additionally, without proper equipment, they may be at increased risk of falls, injuries, and other health complications. Bariatric equipment offers the correct level of support and structure to provide the functionality and safety that larger patients require.



The Growing Need for Bariatric Equipment

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), more than 42 percent of the U.S. population today suffers from obesity. A recent [National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey](#) shows that from 1999–2000 through 2017–2020, US obesity prevalence increased from 30.5% to 41.9%. During the same time, the prevalence of severe obesity also increased significantly.

It is now predicted that the majority of the global population (51 percent, or more than 4 billion people) will either be overweight or living with obesity by 2035. If these trends hold true, the bariatric patient population may eventually become the standard, rather than the exception.

How Bariatric Equipment Can Help

Bariatric equipment is designed to help individuals affected by obesity maintain the highest possible quality of life and gain access to essential services. By using proper bariatric equipment, healthcare providers can promote inclusivity, eliminate barriers, and ensure that every patient receives the care they need, regardless of their size.

Bariatric equipment spans a wide variety of products, such as beds, wheelchairs, commodes, shower chairs, lifts, and slings. This equipment is crucial in long-term care facilities, such as nursing homes and assisted living facilities, where these patients require specialized care and support.

Meeting the Challenges of Long-Term Care

According to recent reports, the rising trend of obesity among Americans will continue to pose ever greater clinical challenges for nursing home administrators. Since 2018, the number of states with 35 percent or more obese residents has nearly doubled, [according to the CDC](#), and the increasing prevalence of obesity within long-term care facilities and nursing homes appears to be following that trend.

This expanded bariatric population may present special challenges for staff members such as nurses and aides — more of whom may be called upon to assist residents physically. Given these trends, it's more important than ever that long-term care facilities be equipped to provide the level of care these residents deserve.



Choosing the Right Equipment

When it comes to choosing bariatric equipment, the most important factor to consider is whether the equipment meets the safety and medical needs of patients — as well as their comfort. As with all medical equipment, bariatric products should only be purchased from a trusted vendor, manufacturer, or distributor to ensure the equipment is top quality. Products should be tested and verified to be appropriate for the user's weight, and the maximum recommended weight capacity should be indicated on the equipment.

Bariatric Bathroom Safety Products

One of the most crucial concerns in providing proper long-term care is bathroom safety. Bariatric patients may need assistance with everyday tasks, and this can make personal care more difficult. It is common for patients to need assistance moving from the bed to a chair or wheelchair to attend to personal hygiene, shower, and for toileting purposes. This presents special challenges for bariatric patients, who require a greater level of support to accomplish these activities safely.

Shower Chairs and Commodes

Bariatric shower chairs and commodes are built with wider seats and sturdier structures to accommodate a heavier weight capacity. Look for shower chairs and commodes specifically designed with drop arm functionality, allowing the arms to be pushed down and out of the way. This makes transfers easier from the bed onto a commode or shower chair without the need to lift the person up. With a drop arm mechanism, the patient is

able to shift more easily or slide directly onto the end of the seat. This feature is especially important for bariatric patients, who may find it harder to shift or lift their weight off of a surface. This also helps to minimize the risk of back injuries for caregivers and lowers the fall risk for the resident.

Look for:

- ✓ Heavy-duty steel construction for optimal stability
- ✓ Drop arm mechanism for safer lateral transfers
- ✓ Tool-free setup

Bariatric Beds

We all know that quality sleep is essential for our health and ability to heal. But people who are overweight can experience issues that make getting a good night's sleep difficult. Bariatric beds provide adjustable positioning so patients can find a comfortable sleeping and resting position. The range of bariatric beds includes hospital beds designed for use in medical settings, long-term care beds, as well as home care beds.

Homecare Beds

Bariatric homecare beds have a range of unique features that make them suitable for bariatric patients. This includes a heavy-duty frame to support a higher weight capacity as well as an adjustable backrest and footrest, which allows the user to comfortably sit up in bed and find a comfortable sleeping position. Other useful features include the ability to raise and lower the bedframe to make getting in and out of the bed safer and easier.

Look for:

- ✓ Split-frame design to make transport easier in the home environment
- ✓ Emergency crank or battery for uninterrupted operation during power outage
- ✓ Tool-free setup to make it easier to install the bed in the home

Long-Term Care Beds

Bariatric Long-Term Care Beds are designed to accommodate the unique needs of bariatric residents within long-term-care facilities and nursing homes. These beds are constructed with heavy-duty steel frames and are specially designed to ensure that the bed does not tip over when a patient is seated on the edge of the bedframe. At the same time, long-term care beds must have the capability to adjust to a narrower width in order to fit safely through facility doorways. This is why choosing a bed with tool-free adjustment capability is important—so that width and length adjustments can be made quickly and easily as needed.

Look for:

- ✓ Heavy-duty steel bed deck for maximum support and durability
- ✓ Powerful motor that can adjust the bed while supporting heavier weight capacity
- ✓ Tool-free adjustability for easier, faster customization
- ✓ Back-up battery to allow uninterrupted operation in case of power outages

Bariatric Mattresses

The quality of a mattress is just as important as the frame it rests upon, and this is even more crucial for bariatric patients who require added support. The two main types of bariatric mattresses are Foam Mattresses and Air Mattresses.

Foam Mattresses

Foam mattresses are designed to offer optimal comfort and to help prevent pressure sores in long-term care bariatric patients. A multi-layered mattress with variable density is an optimal choice to provide maximum support. A two-way stretch fabric is recommended rather than a non-breathable nylon to facilitate air flow.

Look for:

- ✓ Variable foam density and multiple layers for optimal support
- ✓ Two-way stretch fabric that allows air to circulate and helps reduce shear friction to protect patients' skin
- ✓ Easy-to-clean, fluid-resistant cover for quick cleanup

Air Mattresses

Bariatric air mattresses are designed to help bariatric patients who are suffering from pressure wounds. These alternating air mattresses are constructed to provide ideal pressure redistribution. They feature cell-on-cell technology so that there is always an underlying layer of static air cells that permanently retain air to protect the patient, even in the event of a power outage.

Look for:

- ✓ 10-inch alternating pressure air cells
- ✓ Multiple inflation modes and cycle times
- ✓ Maximum firm feature to ensure patient safety during transfer
- ✓ Audible alarm to alert in case of power failure or malfunction

Bariatric Mobility Aids

Wheelchairs

Bariatric wheelchairs are designed to provide reliable support and improved mobility for larger users. A quality bariatric wheelchair features sturdy construction and thicker steel, with the added support of double cross braces, rather than a single brace to add more stability to the structure.

These chairs provide a wider and deeper seat, as well as larger leg rests with padding to accommodate the weight of patients' limbs – as well as provide them with added comfort. The wheels are extra sturdy and engineered for easy maneuverability at higher weight capacity. Some bariatric wheelchairs also offer a reclining capability that can support 500 pounds or more in a lounging position.

Look for:

- ✓ Dual cross braces for added stability
- ✓ Adjustable, wider leg rests with padding to comfortably support limbs
- ✓ Sturdy, durable wheels for improved safety and support



Walkers and Rollators

Bariatric walkers and rollators are both viable options to provide stability to bariatric patients who have limited mobility or difficulty walking. By taking some of the weight off the body, they can help reduce the impact and stress on the knees and joints.

Look for:

- ✓ Sturdy steel structure for reliable stability
- ✓ Strong front cross braces and dual side braces for added support
- ✓ Extra-wide frame design for a more comfortable fit

Bariatric Lifts

Bariatric lifts can help to make patient transfers safer and more efficient, while reducing the risk of musculoskeletal injuries among healthcare workers.

Electric Patient Lifts

Bariatric electric lifts can provide an enormous benefit to both patients and caregivers in long-term care environments.

With patients who are obese, transfers can become dangerous — with an increased risk of falls for the patient — and strains and stress injuries for the caregiver. With an electric patient lift, the burden is shifted from the body of the caregiver to the solid support of the lift. These lifts also save time getting a patient out of bed, to a wheelchair, or to a commode. Caregivers often choose to attach a scale to the lift so that patients can be weighed at the same time they are being transferred.

Look for:

- ✓ Electric hand pendant functionality to easily adjust positions
- ✓ An offset base with 5" clearance to fit under industry standard beds
- ✓ Manually operated safety stop to ensure patient safety during power outages
- ✓ Optional desk charger with extra battery to ensure continuous operation

Bariatric Chairs

One of the biggest challenges for bariatric patients is finding a comfortable chair that also provides sufficient support for larger bodies. Bariatric patients can often experience back, neck, and spine issues that can make sitting for a long time uncomfortable or painful. Bariatric chairs are designed to accommodate a larger size while enabling patients to sit comfortably for extended periods of time.

Recliners

Bariatric reclining chairs (geri chairs) are ideal for all-day comfort in long-term care facilities. They provide a padded, comfortable support and offer the ability to recline to an almost fully flat position, partially recline, or sit straight up for meals, reading, and other daily activities.

Look for:

- ✓ High capacity, sturdy steel frame for optimal support
- ✓ Adjustable positions to adapt to changing needs throughout the day
- ✓ Wide, padded armrests and built-in adjustable headrest for maximum support and comfort
- ✓ Moisture barrier to help protect against fluids

Building Bariatric Accessibility

With the growing demand for quality bariatric equipment, it's more important than ever for patients to have full access to the appropriate supplies when and where they are needed. Unfortunately, there is often a delay supplying these bariatric products because many manufacturers only make them available to distributors on a made-to-order basis.

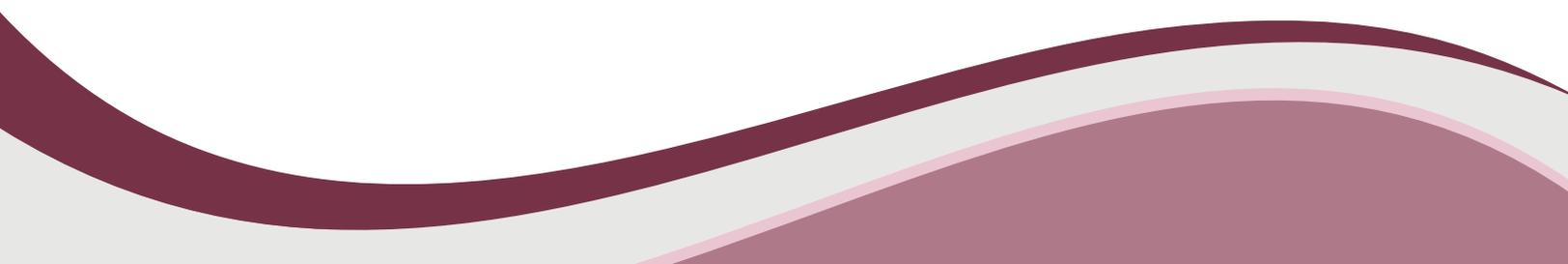
This type of delay could potentially cause patients to spend more time than necessary in a hospital situation instead of moving on to the next proper level of care. This is because hospitals by law can only release patients into an environment in which proper equipment is available for their care.





In the end, even the finest bariatric equipment has limited benefits if facilities aren't able to make them available to their patients.

Given these considerations, as well as the increasing need for bariatric equipment, it is to the advantage of facilities and home care suppliers to seek out suppliers who stock these items and make them readily available. Distributors can also benefit from the growing need for these products by prioritizing bariatric supplies and keeping them on hand to better serve their customer base. The more these items are made available in a timely manner, the faster patients will get their needs met — and the closer we will be to an inclusive care system for bariatric individuals.



Empowering All Bodies

As time moves forward and the bariatric patient population increases, treating overweight patients may become the standard of care rather than the exception. Equipment makers and healthcare providers that address this issue swiftly and wholeheartedly will place themselves at the leading edge of care for this growing population.



As the global population continues to diversify, and our understanding of health and wellness improves, it becomes clear that serving the evolving patient population means moving beyond a “one size fits all” approach to medical equipment.

For larger individuals and patients, bariatric equipment can make all the difference in maintaining independence, safety, and comfort. By investing in bariatric equipment, long-term care facilities can elevate the quality of care they provide, improve patient outcomes, and safeguard the well-being of their residents, staff, and caregivers.



LEARN MORE: <https://dynarex.com/products/bari-max.html>