

Foundations of Practice and Beyond

Wednesday

Stream B

Session 7 1100

KCI Medical

The impact of critically ill Bariatric patients within ICU on the Multi-disciplinary Team

Abstract

Managing the complexities of the bariatric patient and increased pressure ulcer risk with effective moving and handling techniques, and the use of appropriate equipment.

Caring for a bariatric patient in ICU can be challenging due to their unique complexities. If not properly cared for, the risk of injury associated with patient management – both to the caregiver and the patient – can be significant. With the specialty of caring for larger and heavier individuals, it becomes increasingly important to recognise the need to put adequate consideration on the choice of appropriate equipment.

There are many implications both for health and for the moving and handling of these patients. The increased strain on the patient's joints, the cardiovascular system and limited range of movement/ posture all make it more difficult for them to move and be moved. Combined with this, the potential of enforced immobility heightens susceptibility to pressure ulcer development, and can make patient care more challenging.

Every organisation must strive to deliver the best service for their patients through appropriate risk assessment, adequate and suitable equipment provision, and appropriate training for bariatric handling.