

## **Project: Space requirements and design for obese persons - a guideline.**

Project application, summary

### **The target audience.**

Employees of the social and health sector, working with the handling, treatment and care of bariatric patients.

Secondary; designers and advisors in construction.

### **Project background.**

Sickness absenteeism among nursing staff in social and health care in Denmark is high. This may be due to lack of knowledge and training on handling bariatric patients, and inadequate or missing equipment, but may also be due to the lack of necessary working space.

### **Project objectives / success criteria.**

To reduce the risk of occupational injuries and attrition among caregivers.

To create the conditions for providing the best ways to handle the obese person best to ensure that the physical environment is prospectively dimensioned and designed so as to support the work of the staff.

To document space requirement for the handling of obese persons in the toilet, bathroom and bedroom, in order to develop guidelines and checklists on space needs and the best design of the physical environment.

### **Project activities and methods.**

Collection of knowledge through literature studies, focus group interviews and study visits.

Design - description of work situations by real life testing and education of the staff. Testing and documentation of actual work situations through the establishment of a 1:1 mock-up.

Preparation of guidelines and checklist.

Publication of the project results through the provision of courses, brochures, articles, conference etc.

### **Activities and methodology.**

Use of literature studies, study visits and interviews in order to get an overall status of

knowledge and issues.

Teaching the staff members methods of handling the bariatric patient.

Creation of actual life situations in laboratory tests, to perform practical tests and to draw, build and test space requirements in practice (by using a CAD / CAM system) in order to achieve a realistic and practically transferable methodology for the assessment and documentation of space requirements for care, treatment and handling of bariatric persons.

### **Participation of the target group.**

Through education of the participants, to ensure that participating organizations make use of the results in their respective health and safety committees.

Through the development of instructions and checklists that can be used by anyone interested in the issues.

### **Rethinking.**

No international or national guidelines exist with regard to space requirements for care, treatment and handling of bariatric patients. There is a strong need to identify the space requirements in order to reduce the risk of occupational injuries and attrition due to lack of sufficient space for caregivers.

### **Anchoring the project period.**

Participating organizations and the staff will act as ambassadors in their own organizations.

Instructions and checklists and bibliography will be published and made available through the web.

The results will be disseminated through a conference, through training courses and via flyers about the project.

### **Project organization.**

Establish a steering group and a workgroup. Odense University Hospital is the project owner and the Danish Centre for Assistive Technology is project manager.

### **Evaluation**

Here the focus will be on the readiness to act.

The project will be evaluated by an external evaluator, on the basis of the described success criteria. Specifically, the evaluation design will be prepared by the evaluator based on a baseline established through focus group interviews in the initial phase.