

Bariatric Transport Service



Medical Services has a fleet of High Dependency Ambulances that have been specially converted and adapted to safely cater for heavier or bariatric patients. These vehicles are strategically positioned throughout England and Wales, operating from our 23 ambulance stations to provide a responsive and reactive service



With Britain facing a growing obesity problem, Medical Services has invested in vehicles, equipment and staff training to be able to provide safe transport for larger patients up to 300kg (47 stone). The vehicles have special stretchers with mechanical lifts capable of safely lifting patients with reduced risk to the patient and crew. Our crews whilst maintaining the safety of the patient and themselves also ensure the patients dignity is maintained at all times. Our vehicles from the outside look the same as any normal High Dependency Ambulance. Our IHCS technicians are trained to convey patients with dignity, and in a safe, comfortable manner.



Ferno Megabus Stretcher

The Ferno Megabus Stretcher has additional wide inserts that allow for larger patients to be accommodated. The inserts when not in use or required can be removed and stowed.

The maximum safe handling weight of the stretcher is 47 stone (300 kgs). The raising and lowering of the stretcher are all carried out hydraulically by a foot pump operation by the crew.

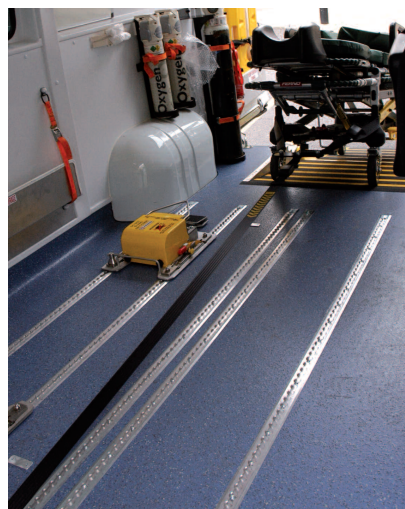
Renault Master Low Floor O & H conversion

All of Medical Services' Bariatric Ambulances are based upon the reliable, tried and tested Renault Master long wheelbase platform. As well as the CEN compliant design and stretcher securing locks, the vehicles are fitted with electric winches to pull wheelchairs and stretchers on board the vehicle with minimal risk to the crews.

The winch is capable of safely attaching to the stretcher or purpose built bariatric wheelchair with the patient on board. The winch has a safe operating capacity of 2½ tonnes. The crew will safely guide the patient on board the vehicle, with minimal attention and stress.

The stretcher solidly locks into the vehicle using the CEN compliant fixings. The back rest of the stretcher can be adjusted, again hydraulically, to ensure that the patient is comfortable.

Once on board the patient has a comfortable air conditioned environment for the journey. Our crews will endeavour to ensure the patient is put at ease throughout the journey so as to keep stress levels to a minimum.



Extra wide bariatric wheelchair

Also on board the vehicle is a purpose built Bariatric extra wide wheelchair. The wheelchair is approx 1 metre wide and has a safe operating load of up to 50 stone (318 kg). The wheelchair folds when not in use, for storage on the vehicle.

The floor area has Unwin tracking throughout so as to allow the safe securing of a patient to the chair and the chair to the vehicle during transit. On request Medical Services initiate a home access risk assessment. This would be prudent prior to deploying the ambulance.

This is particularly prevalent when patients are being admitted or discharged to or from home premises where access and egress routes may cause a risk to the patient or staff.

Additional resources to allow safe handling of the patient can be utilised, in some cases a four person crew would be deployed to effect the safe transfer of a patient.

In the past the Fire and Statutory Ambulance Services have been utilised to transfer the heavier patients. This does cause stress and embarrassment to the patient, often making their condition worse.

Medical Services has a patient focused solution that safely provides for heavier patients.

