

# Using a Bariatric Tilt-in-Space Chair to Create a Safe Environment for a Difficult-to-Manage Patient

↓ **Mitigating risk to staff and patient**

↑ **Increased comfortability and safety**

↑ **Flexibility and adaptation to a challenging situation**

## Introduction

George\* (aged 26, weighing 89kg) was admitted to the hospital as he required a routine ophthalmology investigation for his cataracts. Considering his past medical history, it includes:

- **Learning disabilities**
- **Sight loss**

On his previous visit to the eye clinic, George became distressed and frightened as it was an unfamiliar environment. When George is in an unfamiliar environment, he expresses aggression, which unfortunately led to damaging various pieces of expensive hospital equipment.

*\*George is not the patient's real name*

## Clinical Challenges

George's learning disabilities are complex and often result in him becoming violent towards objects. This creates challenging situations, especially in new places as experienced in the eye clinic.

George's unpredictable behaviour can often put himself and others around him at risk of harm, therefore it became apparent that a multi-disciplinary approach needed to be implemented upon his next admission.

When assessing the needs of George, it became known that he is afraid of laying down and does not like being confined to a bed. When discussing his previous visit, it was recognised that the treatment plinth was one of the factors that triggered George as he became afraid and felt threatened when laying down. It was therefore identified that in order for George to feel safe, a wider chair was required.

The multi-disciplinary team also decided to close the clinic during George's admission to ensure the environment was calm upon his arrival.

## Patient Objectives

- **Safe and calm environment**
- **Increase the patient's comfort**



## Introduction of Medstrom's Bariatric Equipment Package

Prior to admission, and after review from Medstrom's Clinical Advisor, it was suggested that the Bariatric Tilt-in-Space Chair would be suitable and was used for the procedure.

**Bariatric Tilt-in-Space Chair:** George's learning disability coupled with his fear of laying down within a bed, meant the Bariatric Tilt-in-Space Chair was appropriate for staff to begin treatment. Due to the chair being extra-wide (28"/71cm), George felt safe and was able to curl up within it, reducing his anxiety and making him more compliant with staff.

The Tilt-in-Space Chair also provided a one-button function to lay the chair flat. This allowed the anaesthetist to sedate George and get him in the supine position. When George was in the supine position, the eye clinic staff were able to PAT slide him on to the ophthalmic plinth where the operation was carried out.



## Summary

The use of the Bariatric Tilt-in-Space Chair within this example transformed the approach taken for this patient. Despite George not being plus-sized, this case study shows the versatility and flexibility of the Medstrom Select equipment, ensuring the right equipment was with the patient at the right time.

The overall outcome of the implemented approach was successful, and the treatment was able to be carried out in a tranquil and safe environment, with most importantly a calm and comfortable patient. George's carer was so impressed with the equipment and how it catered for both his physical and mental needs that she enquired about purchasing one for use at home. Equally, the eye clinic also enquired about ensuring the Bariatric Tilt-in-Space Chair is available for all of George's future admissions.

**Medstrom's Bariatric Product Specialist concluded this scenario by quoting:**

"George was a **difficult-to-manage patient** with **very complex needs**. In addition to ensuring his needs were met, we also needed to consider the impact his admission had on the clinic from a safety perspective. I am delighted that we were able to assist with a solution that first and foremost **gave George the safe environment he required**, but also **allowed staff to engage with him and facilitate the operation**. This example clearly demonstrates **how flexible the Medstrom Select portfolio can be** with **finding solutions for various clinical needs**."



**Comfort**



**Safety**



**Flexibility**

**To discover more about Medstrom's range of solutions for dignified plus-size patient care and enhanced support for caregivers, contact Medstrom's Bariatric Product Specialists 24/7/365 on:**

**UK: 0845 371 1717 or [info@medstrom.co.uk](mailto:info@medstrom.co.uk) IRE: 01 686 9487 or [info@medstrom.ie](mailto:info@medstrom.ie)**