

# Home Comforts: Major Benefits for a Community Patient who went from using a Sofa 24/7 to having a Bed, Mattress and Chair

- ↑ **Quality of life significantly increased**
- ↓ **Reduced infection control risks**
- ↑ **Futureproofing benefits built into equipment**

## Introduction

Sean\* (age 28) was living alone at home and had complex abdominal wounds consisting of several Category III pressure ulcers and an area of unstageable damage. These had all developed from moisture lesions and were being managed by the District Nursing Team.

At the time of his assessment for bariatric equipment, Sean weighed 305kg and had the following co-morbidities:

- **Type 2 diabetes**
- **Heart failure**
- **Oedema**

He could mobilise independently, but only for short distances, and had fallen several times previously.

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



## Clinical Challenges

The District Nursing Team referred Sean to the community OT team as they were concerned about the lack of suitable equipment in his home.

Prior to receiving a bariatric equipment package, Sean was using a small sofa in his living room to sleep on at night in a sitting position, and sit on during the day. It was completely unsuitable for his needs; he was sinking into the frame, which was digging into his hips, sacrum and buttocks. Thankfully, he had no skin damage from this.

In addition, his abdominal wounds were producing a high volume of exudate, and this had seeped into the fabric of the sofa, causing risks for pressure area care and infection control.

## Patient Objectives

- **Have a suitable bed and mattress to sleep on**
- **Comfortably sit out of bed during the day**
- **Provide equipment which would be suitable for current and future requirements**

## Introduction of Medstrom's Bariatric Equipment Package

Before the equipment package was selected, Medstrom, in conjunction with the community OT, completed a home assessment to ensure that there was suitable access to deliver the equipment, that it would fit in the room with enough space spare for walking, transferring and turning circles. A bariatric bed, surface and chair were then provided for Sean to help meet his needs.

**Pro-Bario Active Community Bed:** This is specifically designed for home use. It has wooden head and foot boards and looks more like a piece of furniture than an electric profiling hospital bed. It is delivered in four parts and assembled in the room where it's going to be used, meaning it can be carried through narrow spaces, round corners and up/down steps.

The bed has a safe working load of 380kg and maximum patient weight of 350kg, so was suitable for Sean, and it has a platform width of 120cm, with a platform low height of 30cm. The electric controls allow effortless and frequent repositioning. An auto-contour button aids upright positioning and helps to prevent pushing the person down the bed, reducing shear, friction and abdominal crunching.

The bed is available with and without side rails. For Sean, it was decided to leave the side rails off, as he was able to mobilise independently and didn't need them.



**Bariatric Foam Surface:** The foam surface has a maximum patient weight of 350kg and offered an effective foam mattress solution for Sean. It has unique design features that enhance pressure redistribution but is firm enough to assist with safe mobilisation.

**Bariatric Riser-Recliner Chair:** This provides a comfortable seat for someone who is able to mobilise to and from it, with or without assistance from rise function. The electric controls allow effortless positioning, and the backrest and calf section can be elevated for positional changes and comfort. The latter function was useful for management of Sean's oedema.

The bariatric riser-recliner chair is available in three seat widths – 28", 32" and 34". Sean was measured for his chair and 34" was the correct size for him, giving sufficient support without applying pressure to his hips and thighs.

Provision of the new equipment gave profound and immediate benefits to Sean. He could mobilise independently to and from the bed safely due to its low height. All objectives for him were met; he had somewhere safe and suitable to both sit during the day and sleep at night. Infection control risks were greatly reduced as both the chair and mattress could be easily wiped down.



**Increased comfort**



**Reduced infection control risks**



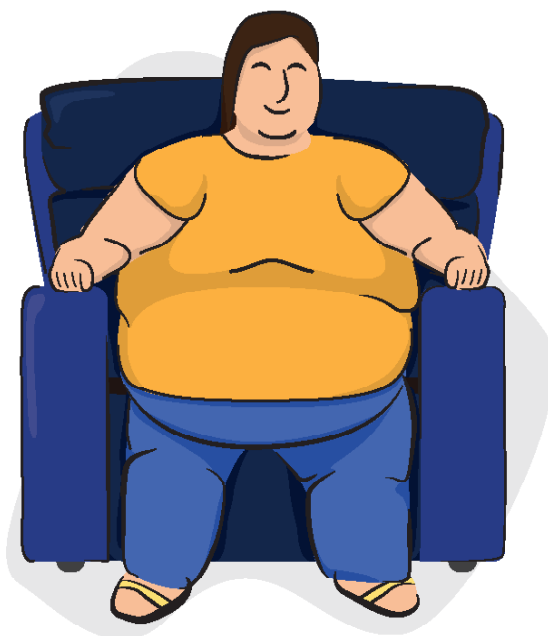
**Improved well-being**

## Summary

The bariatric equipment provided for Sean gave immediate benefits but was also selected for futureproofing:

- The **stand assist** feature of the **riser-recliner** chair was there if Sean's mobility decreased in future. When installed, he was able to stand without using it, but it was built-in and ready if required.
- The bed has open access underneath for **mobile hoist compatibility**. If a hoist was needed in the future, it would be able to be used with the bed.
- If **side rails** were needed in the future, they could be fitted easily on the bed.
- If a **higher therapeutic mattress** was needed at any point, a variety are available which fit the bed, allowing step-up if required.

Futureproofing can be important in the community when it's more difficult to swap equipment in and out, and where limited space may restrict the number and types of products that can be installed.



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:

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