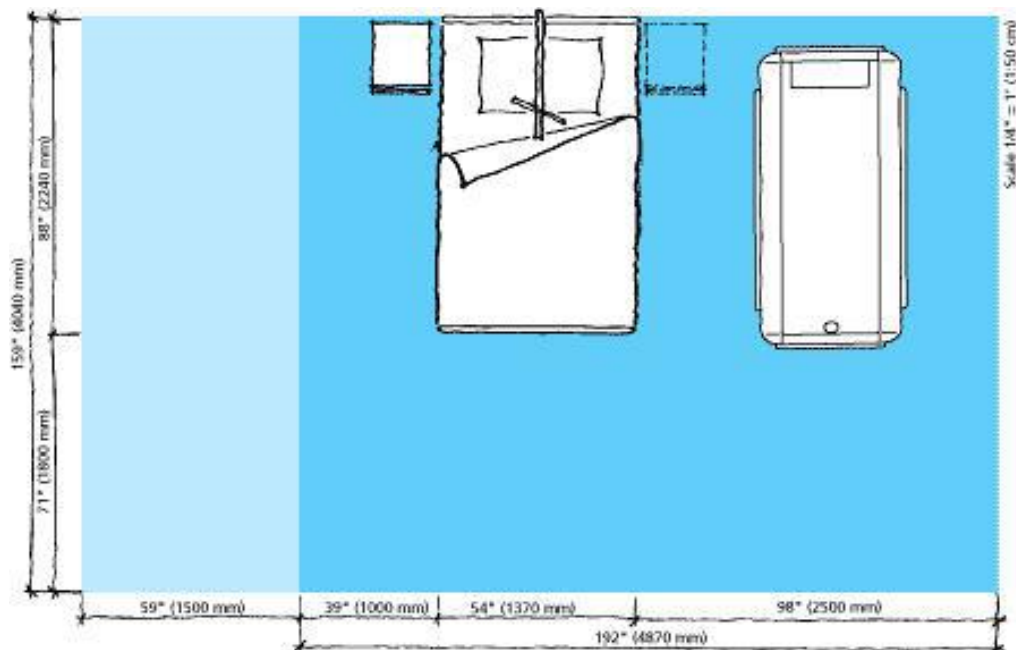


Bariatric Rooms

The minimum required room size for the care of bariatric patients should be 4.87m x 4.04m. This will allow 2.5m on one side of the bed for transfer equipment (stretchers, lifts, etc.) as well as caregivers, and 1.0m on the other side of the bed for caregivers alone (shown in Figure 1). This will also provide for adequate free floor space for turning equipment 360° and allow the patient to exit out of the foot of the bed. The room should be extended by 1.5m if equal access to the patient on both sides of the bed is required. Also, doorways need to be 1.5m wide to allow safe patient transfers using a bariatric bed. A split door may best accommodate this structural need. In long-term care or residential care facilities, additional space for furniture and personal belongings (personal dresser, TV unit, and cabinet) should also be considered over and above these space recommendations. (ARJO Hospital Equipment AB, 2005)

Figure 1: Space requirements around the bed (From ARJO Canada Inc., 2006)

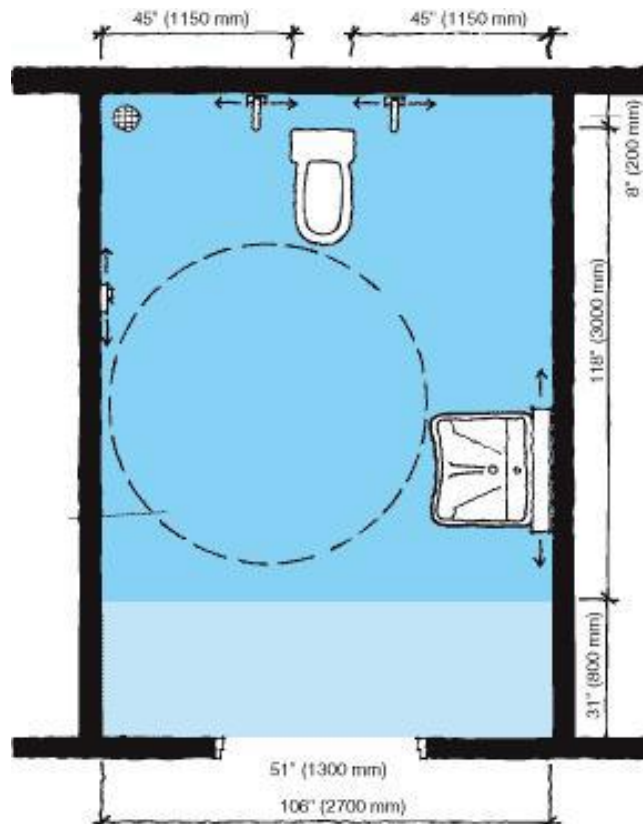


The dark shaded area indicates minimum allotted space required. The light shaded area (plus dark area) indicates recommended extension of the working area to allow adequate space to access the client equally from both sides. These recommendations do not include the provision of space for furniture and other personal items.

Toileting and Hygiene Facilities

It is important to consider that space needs to be allotted for not only the bariatric patient, but also for the necessary equipment and the two or more caregivers in attendance. Figure 2 outlines the recommended bathroom space allotments for bariatric clients, with additional area indicated for a combination bathroom/showering area. Floor mounted toilets are recommended and should be placed 0.2m away from the back wall to give staff better access and allow lighter patients to sit on the toilet without using a commode. Current tub designs usually cannot accommodate a bariatric patient; so showering (in an appropriate shower chair/stretcher) may be a better option. Again, the bathroom door must be wide enough to allow the stretcher to pass through along with the health care providers. (ARJO Hospital Equipment AB, 2005)

Figure 2: Space requirements around the bathroom (From ARJO Canada, Inc., 2006)



The dark shaded area indicates minimum allotted space required. The light shaded area (plus dark area) indicates recommended extension of the working area to facilitate bathing the resident in a bariatric shower chair. If the basin is not laterally adjustable, the width of the room should be increased from 2.7m to 3.3m.

References

ARJO Canada Inc. (2006). "Bariatrics Space Requirements", available on the World Wide Web at the following address:

<http://www.arjo.com/ca/Page.asp?PageNumber=1021>

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ARJO Hospital Equipment AB (2005). ARJO Guidebook for Architects and Planners: Elderly Care Facilities, 2nd Ed., Eslov, Sweden