Winnipeg Regional Health Authority — Office régional de la santé de Winnipeg — Caring for Health — À l'écoute de notre santé

Manitoba

SAFE HEALTH CARE — SPOT THE HAZARD, ASSESS THE RISK, FIND A SAFER WAY EVERYDAY
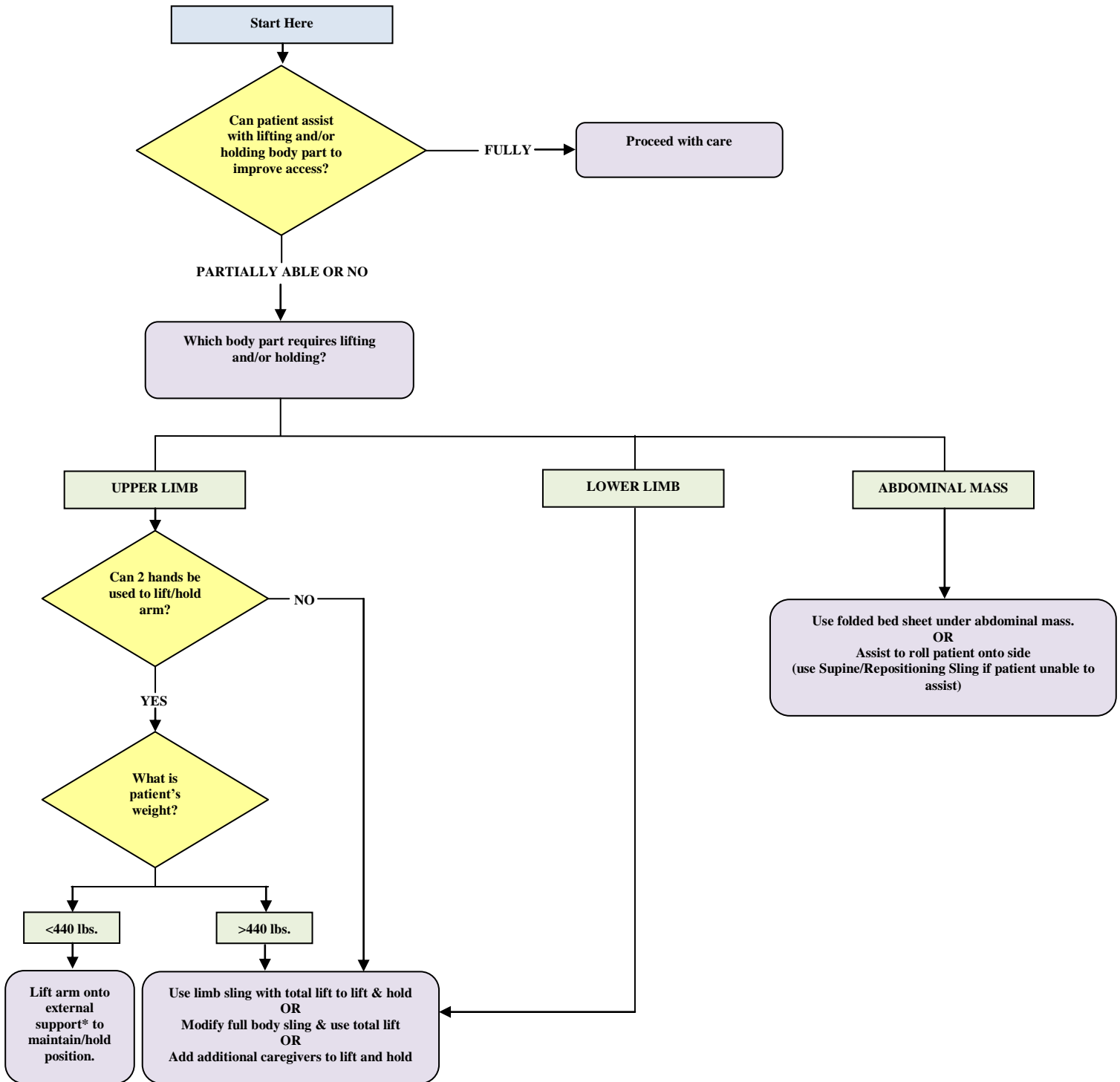
Bariatric Algorithm Patient Handling Tasks Requiring Access to Body Parts
(Limb, Abdominal Mass, Gluteal Area)

Start Here

Can patient assist with lifting and/or holding body part to improve access?

→ **FULLY** → **Proceed with care**

PARTIALLY ABLE OR NO

↓

Which body part requires lifting and/or holding?

- **UPPER LIMB**
- **LOWER LIMB**
- **ABDOMINAL MASS**

UPPER LIMB:

Can 2 hands be used to lift/hold arm?

→ **NO**

YES

↓

What is patient's weight?

- **<440 lbs.** → **Lift arm onto external support* to maintain/hold position.**
- **>440 lbs.** → **Use limb sling with total lift to lift & hold OR Modify full body sling & use total lift OR Add additional caregivers to lift and hold**

ABDOMINAL MASS:

Use folded bed sheet under abdominal mass.
OR
Assist to roll patient onto side
(use Supine/Repositioning Sling if patient unable to assist)

- Assemble multidisciplinary team to problem solve and develop creative solutions that are safe for patient and caregiver.

- *External supports could include sealed high density foam rolls/wedges, arm boards, height adjustable foot stools, etc.

- Source: Waters, T.R., Sedlak, C.A., Howe, C.M., Gonzales, C.M., Doheny, M.D., Patterson, M. & Nelson, A. (2009). Recommended weight limits for lifting & holding limbs in the orthopaedic practice setting. Orthopaedic Nursing, 28(25):528-532.

Assessment Actions
Patient attempts to roll from side to side in bed
Patient attempts to move legs over one at a time in the direction of the desired movement
Patient attempts to lift one or both hips off the bed (bridge position)

SWPs: Limb Sling with Total Lift (Ceiling or Floor Based)
 Pannus Sling Options
 Bed Turns with Repositioning Sling