

Please return form to: Fax 206-767-4639

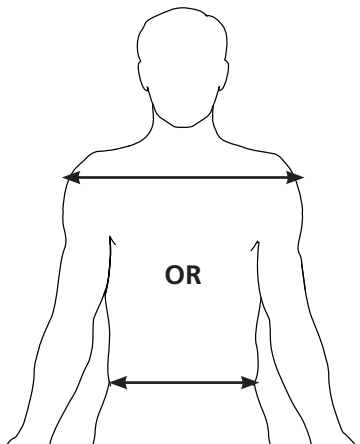
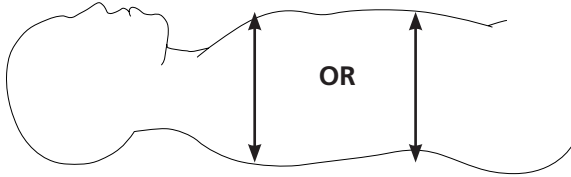
LARGE PATIENT AIR TRANSPORT REQUEST

Airlift Northwest will transport patients more than 250 lbs., but we will need additional information to make that decision. Please complete the form below and return it to us. We will call you after reviewing the form. The final decision of whether a patient can be transported safely is made by the medical crew after assessment of the patient, and lastly by the Pilot in Command.

TO:		FAX #:	
FROM:	Airlift Northwest	FAX #:	206-767-4639

PATIENT NAME:				
WEIGHT:		lbs.	BODY WIDTH	in.
HEIGHT:		ft.	BODY HEIGHT	in.
		in.		
ADDITIONAL LIFTING HELP CAN BE PROVIDED			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

With patient lying down, please measure the widest and tallest part of the body as shown on the diagrams below, and enter the measurements in the boxes above.

<u>BODY WIDTH</u>	<u>BODY HEIGHT</u>
	

FOR INTERNAL USE:			
FLIGHT NO:	DATE:	PATIENT TRANSPORTED:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Airlift Northwest will transport patients who weigh more than 250 pounds. Certain guidelines apply, and assessments are made for each case.

The primary reason for carefully considering who can be transported is the safety of the patient and the crew.

During the past 20 years, obesity in this country has increased significantly. Obesity is defined by a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 30. A person is considered overweight with a BMI greater than 25. When the BMI is applied, nearly two-thirds of the people in this country are overweight or obese. This presents a significant challenge to safe air medical transport.

We have carefully considered our process for deciding if we can safely transport a large patient. Because each aircraft has a unique set of limitations, we do not use the BMI measure. Instead we request patient height and weight, along with body width and height. **In general, if a patient weighs more than 400 pounds, we are not able to transport in our aircraft. Between 250 and 400 pounds, the guidelines will be applied.**

For inter-facility transports, these procedures will apply:

- When a flight is requested, the Airlift Northwest communications specialist will ask for the patient's weight.
- If the patient's weight is more than 250 pounds, the referring facility will be asked some key questions to determine if Airlift Northwest can transport the patient.
- The referring facility may be asked to gather additional information and complete a form and fax it to our 24-Hour ComCenter.
- This information will be used to determine if we can transport the patient safely.
- If the flight team decides transport cannot be accomplished by Airlift Northwest, we will suggest alternative carriers.

Lifting Assistance

When we transport a large patient, our flight teams are required to receive lifting assistance to minimize injury to the patient, our flight crews and the people who help us. Depending on the size of the patient, we may need as many as seven people, including the Airlift Northwest team, to safely lift the person.

For field responses, these procedures will apply:

- When a flight is requested, the communication specialist will ask for estimates of the height and weight, along with estimates of abdominal width and height of the patient.
- This information will be provided to the designated crew who will facilitate the most effective way to transport the patient.
- A great way to estimate is with a letter-sized sheet of paper held lengthwise. Generally, a patient more than 2 ½ sheets wide will not fit into a rotary-wing aircraft.

In both inter-facility transport and field responses, if the crew decides Airlift Northwest cannot accomplish transport, we will suggest alternatives. We may also be able to provide our nurses for ground transport if requested. The final decision on whether a large patient can be transported lies first with the flight crew and then with the Pilot in Command.

Airlift Northwest is committed to patient service and safe transport. To date, we have had no injuries to patients or crew under this new policy. That tells us it's a safe and workable one. Thank you for your cooperation with these new procedures.

If you have questions, please call 206-965-1900, and ask for one of our Regional Managers.