

**PATIENT SAFTY**
**CHECKLIST #2**
**SAFELY CARING FOR PATIENTS OF SIZE IN THE OFFICE PRACTICE**

Obesity continues to be a serious health issue in the United States. Dentists' offices may not be well equipped to accommodate patients of size. Injuries can occur if appropriate equipment is not available to accommodate them. Further, bias or ambivalence by dental professionals in treating obese patients can negatively affect patient care and lead to poor outcomes. Providing a safe environment, while optimizing sensitivity to the needs of this patient population, will enhance patient care and minimize exposure to claims of negligence.

	YES	NO
1. Treatment rooms and waiting areas include appropriate and safe furnishings, such as large sturdy chairs, high sofas, benches, or loveseats that can accommodate patients and visitors of size.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Diagnostic and interventional equipment that can accommodate morbidly obese patients is available. This may include, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floor-mounted toilets</li> <li>• Sturdy grab bars in bathrooms</li> <li>• Sturdy step stools in treatment rooms</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Although patients of size may face many additional dental and medical issues, they are less likely to obtain preventative care and more likely to postpone or cancel appointments because of embarrassment and/or a feeling of bias on the part of dentists. Patient support and follow-up are provided.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Dentists and staff assess their own potential for weight bias and recognize any pre-conceived ideas and attitudes regarding weight. Appropriate feedback is given to patients to encourage healthful changes in behavior as indicated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Staff is educated about the needs of this patient population to enhance their ability to demonstrate understanding, respect, and sensitivity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>