

ONE LINERS

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency

MHRA

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Asleep on the Job! - Bed Stuff

The aim of this edition is to highlight reported incidents involving beds which are in general use and if inappropriately used have resulted in patient injury and even death. It warns users of what can go wrong and how to avoid problems in the future. It is all too easy to take everyday equipment for granted.

Bed Time Story?

Children being nursed in profiling beds that are designed for adults are at risk of entrapment or poor positioning due to their smaller body size.

Ensure that staff carry out an individual risk assessment for all children in their care to ensure they have the appropriate bed. This will help to avoid entrapment or poor positioning.

Roll Over !!!

Bedrails that are too low due to their design or adjustment will not prevent the occupant rolling out of bed.

Ensure that the risk assessment before use includes the height from the top of the bedrails to the top of the sleeping surface (including any overlay mattresses etc) and also the sleep pattern movement of the occupant. For additional information refer to DB 2006(06) and also MDA 2007/009 and the MHRA poster 'Safe use of bedrails'.

Full Service History!!

A lack of planned preventative maintenance on beds can lead to them not functioning properly when required. This can be safety critical, for example, if it affects the CPR function.

Ensure beds are serviced and inspected in accordance with the manufacturers instructions. Further guidance can be found in Device Bulletin DB 2006(05).

Live Wire

Electric profiling beds can sustain damage to their attached mains power cable due to entrapment in the beds' powered mechanisms or by moving the bed when still plugged in.

Ensure that any cables that become loose are refitted in accordance with the manufacturers instructions and that beds are always unplugged before they are moved.

High Impact

During height adjustment of profiling bed frames nearby furniture or wall mounted power supplies can be damaged, leading to risks to the occupant or carers.

Adjustable beds must be positioned to clear external objects sufficiently to allow their height to be adjusted and their profiling functions to be used safely.

Under Cover?

Bed occupants could be at risk of infection from contaminated mattress cores if the cover and core are not frequently inspected for damage and fluid ingress.

Inspect all mattresses externally before use for any sign of damage to the cover and frequently remove the cover to check if the core has suffered fluid ingress. See Medical Device Alert: All types of bed mattresses (MDA/2010/002)

The One Liners Editions are published by the MHRA, an executive agency of the Department of Health. Adverse incidents should be reported at the earliest opportunity. We prefer to receive reports via the online reporting system on our website www.mhra.gov.uk
You may also use this online system to send an e-mail copy of your report to your medical device liaison officer. We also have an adverse incident hotline: 020 7084 3080. You can find detailed reporting guidance on our website.

For advice on Assistive Technology safety related matters please call the AT Centre on 01253 596000

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