

Medical Device Alert

Action update

Ref: MDA(NI)2009-018 Issued: 9 March 2009 at 16:00

Device

All Quickie Groove battery powered wheelchairs manufactured by Sunrise Medical.



Problem

Groove wheelchairs have not been fitted with a heavy duty transit kit or a restraining strap for the powered elevating leg rest. This strap allows the wheelchair to be used as a seat in a motor vehicle. In the event of a vehicle impact the wheelchair or leg rest could break loose, leading to injury to the wheelchair user or others.

Action by

All those involved in the provision, prescription, maintenance and use of these wheelchairs. In particular: wheelchair service managers, rehabilitation engineers, maintenance staff and contractors, occupational therapists and patient transport service managers.

SABS deadlines

Action underway: 09 April 2009
Action complete: 09 June 2009

Action

- 1) Trace all Quickie Groove battery powered wheelchairs.
- 2) Ensure that the end users and carers are aware that until the appropriate parts are fitted, the Groove wheelchair is not suitable for use as a seat within a vehicle.
- 3) Contact Sunrise to obtain a heavy duty transit kit, fitting information, updated instructions for use (IFU), and a restraining strap for the powered elevating leg rests where fitted.
- 4) Arrange for the parts to be fitted and ensure that users and transport providers are aware of the updated IFU.

Contact

Manufacturer

Sunrise Medical Ltd

Tel: 01384 446 666

Fax: 01384 446 674

E-mail: enquiries@sunmed.co.uk

Problem

In October 2008, NIAIC issued MDEA(NI)2008/076. This highlighted the problem of inadequate instructions for use for the Groove powered wheelchair, manufactured by Sunrise Medical, when using the wheelchair as a seat in a motor vehicle.

Since the publication of MDEA(NI)2008/076, Sunrise has identified that their original tie-down specification and tie-down locations are unsuitable due to the maximum weight of Groove wheelchairs.

Sunrise Medical has now made available a heavy duty transit kit to allow the Groove wheelchair to be used as a seat in a vehicle in conjunction with the Unwin 6 strap TITAN 1 tie-down system. Sunrise Medical has also produced a securing strap (part number 740132) for use with elevating or articulating leg rest options. Local repair agents should be able to fit the new kits, but if there are any problems, contact Sunrise Medical.

Sunrise Medical has issued a Field Safety Notice but has been unable to trace all wheelchairs, especially where they have been passed on to second or subsequent users.

The IFU are also available from <http://www.sunrisemedical.co.uk>

This Alert supersedes and replaces MDEA(NI)2008/076.

Distribution

The NIAIC has sent this MDA via SABS to:

- HSC Trust, HSS Board, and Agency's Chief Executive's
- HSC Trust, HSS Board, and Agency's SABS Liaison Officer
- Selected members of the DPSSPSNI
- Hospitals in the independent sector
- Hospices

Onward distribution

Please bring this notice to the attention of all who need to know or be aware of it. This may include distribution by:

Trusts to:

SABS liaison officers for onward distribution to all relevant staff including:

- Ambulance services directors
- Equipment store managers
- Occupational therapists
- Patient transport managers
- Physiotherapists
- Rehabilitation engineers
- Risk managers
- Wheelchair maintenance staff and contractors
- Wheelchair service managers

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) to:

Headquarters for onward distribution to:

- All Nursing and Residential Home providers
- Domiciliary care providers
- Independent treatment centres
- Nursing agencies

Boards to:

SABS liaison officers for onward distribution to:

- Risk manager

Central Services Agency (CSA) to:

SABS liaison officers for onward distribution to all relevant staff including:

- Staff with responsibility for purchasing

Contacts

Manufacturer

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NIAIC

Enquiries in Northern Ireland, please send enquiries about this notice to the NIAIC quoting reference number **MDA(NI)2009-018** and addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC)
Health Estates
Estate Policy Directorate
Stoney Road
Dundonald
Belfast
BT16 1US

Tel: 02890 523868
Fax: 02890 523900
E-mail: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk
<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hea/niaic.htm>

How to report adverse incidents

Incidents relating to medical devices in Northern Ireland must be reported to the Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC) as soon as possible.

Further information about reporting incidents can be found in DB(NI)2008-001; and downloadable report forms are available from the NIAIC's website (<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic>).

Alternatively, further information and printed incident report forms are available from: NIAIC at the address above.

(An answerphone service operates outside normal office hours)

Medical Device Alerts are available in full text on the NIAC website

Further information about SABS can be found at <http://sabs.dhsspsni.gov.uk>

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