

Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2006/81

Issued: 21 December 2006



HEALTH ESTATES

creating healing environments

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	
ACTION	✓
UPDATE	
INFORMATION	

	Section
Medical Device/Equipment: Electrically Operated Beds: Risk of Physical Damage to adjacent Building Services	▶ ①
Problem: The rise and fall action of profiling beds can accidentally damage electrical power plugs & sockets and other fixed services.	▶ ②
Action by: This notice should be brought to the attention of all appropriate staff, including bed managers, community store managers, estates and facilities managers.	▶ ③
Action: All installations should be checked to ensure that adequate clearance is maintained between bed and fixed building services.	▶ ④
Distributed by NIAIC to: Chief Executive of each HSS Board Hospices Chief Executive of each HSS Trust Chief Executive of each Agency NIAIC Liaison Officers	▶ ⑤
Contacts Details of NIAIC contacts for technical aspects.	▶ ⑥
Feedback Requirements to NIAIC None required	▶ ⑦

This Alert is on our web site: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic>

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

All models of Electrically operated Beds

2. PROBLEM:

1. Adverse Incidents have been reported to NIAIC where electrically operated profiling beds have accidentally damaged the electrical wall plug and socket outlet used to power the bed when the bed is being used.
2. These incident reports have come from the private care home sector, but similar risks apply to all areas of health and social care, including domestic installations where beds have been provided for clients for use at home.
3. In some cases the damage has exposed a live electrical circuit with the risk of electric shock and short circuit.
4. Damage has also occurred to low voltage service within the room, e.g. nurse call systems, etc. There is also the potential for damage to other fixed building services, such as gas pipes and water pipes.

3. ACTION BY:

This notice should be brought to the attention of all appropriate staff, including bed managers, community stores, estates and facilities managers.

4. ACTION:

1. Ensure the bed has sufficient clearance to allow the full 'positional envelope' or range of movements to be achieved without damage to adjacent electrical plugs, sockets or any other services, such as; gas lines; pipes or nurse call systems.
2. Check that the bed power and control cables are not trapped in the bed mechanisms or under the wheels.

NOTE: Take care when moving beds to avoid collisions with any services for the same reason. For electrical beds, unplug cables **first** and keep them clear of the mechanisms and wheels.

5. ONWARD DISTRIBUTION TO:

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

- Liaison Officers
- Risk Managers
- Health & Safety Officers/Advisors
- Estates and Facilities Managers
- Bed Managers
- Community Stores
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Hospitals & Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through HSSRIA

6. CONTACTS:

Enquires regarding bed safety should be made to the individual bed manufacturers:

Enquires to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2006/81 and be addressed to:

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

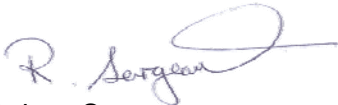
Tel: 028 9052 3868

Fax: 028 9052 3900

Email: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk

7. FEEDBACK:

None required.



Robert Sergeant
NIAIC Operational Manager

HOW TO REPORT ADVERSE INCIDENTS

Adverse Incidents relating to medical devices, non-medical equipment, plant and buildings should be reported to NIAIC as soon as possible. Advice on how to report is given in MDEA(NI)2006/01. If you are in doubt about how to report incidents, please speak to your liaison officer or contact NIAIC using the telephone number provided. Adverse Incident reporting forms and an on-line reporting facility are available on the NIAIC website at www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic

Heath Estates is an Executive Agency of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety