

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

Invacare Flamingo mobile patient hoists

2. PROBLEM:

Invacare redesigned the spreader bar attachment for their Flamingo mobile patient hoist in 2004. The MHRA has been informed that two patients have recently fallen from these mobile patient hoists due to the incorrect attachment of the spreader bar to the lifting arm. One of the patients was seriously injured. In both incidents the original design of the spreader bar attachment was still in use (see figure1).

Invacare UK issued a letter in September 2004 and re-sent it in October 2006 advising their customers of the risk of detachment and that an upgraded spreader bar kit (see figure 2) was required. Invacare has had a poor response from customers, requesting the upgraded spreader bar kit in spite of the two letters. It appears that many Flamingo mobile patient hoists may still be in use with the original spreader bar design. This places patients and others at risk.

The replacement spreader bar kit comprises the spreader bar, carabineer and instructions.

3. ACTION BY:

All those involved in the use and maintenance of mobile patient hoists, in particular nurses, care staff and maintenance staff or contractors.

4. ACTION:

- Trace all Invacare Flamingo mobile patient hoists.
- Carry out a visual check of the spreader bar attachment (see appendix).
- If original design is fitted (see figure1) contact Invacare for a re-designed spreader bar kit, available free of charge.
- Dispose of the old spreader bar following replacement.

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:

- All wards
- Equipment stores
- Estates and facilities managers
- Health and safety managers
- Maintenance staff and contractors
- Moving and handling coordinators
- Nursing executive directors
- Nursing staff
- Occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Purchasing managers
- Risk managers
- Safety officers
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through RQIA
- Community hospitals
- District nurses
- Care at home staff
- Care management team managers
- Children's disability services
- Day centres (older people, learning disabilities, mental health, physical disabilities, respite care, autistic services)
- Disability equipment stores
- Domiciliary care providers (personal care services in the home)
- Education departments for equipment held in schools

6. CONTACTS:

Enquires to manufacturer should be addressed to:

Darran James or Mike Hughes
Invacare Ltd
South Road
Bridgend Industrial Estate
Bridgend
CF31 3PY

Tel: 01656 664 321

Fax: 01656 667 532

E-mail: mhughes@invacare.com
djames@invacare.com

Enquires to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2007/47 and be addressed to:

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

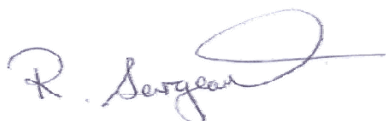
Tel: 028 9052 3868

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

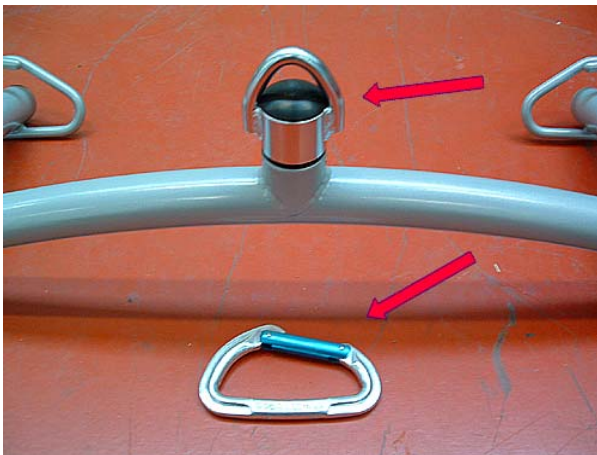
APPENDIX TO MDEA(NI)2007/47

Invacare Flamingo: mobile patient hoist

Spreader bar attachment



1) **Original design:** Requires replacement.



2) **New design:** Revised spreader bar attachment consisting of carabineer and re-designed spreader bar. If fitted no further action is required.



3) **New design:** Correctly attached spreader bar.