

# Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2007/99

Issued: 29 November 2007

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	
<b>ACTION</b>	✓
UPDATE	
INFORMATION	



**HEALTH ESTATES**

creating healing environments

	Section								
<b>Medical Device/Equipment:</b> LCD patient monitors on fixed mounts: risk of falling	▶ ①								
<b>Problem:</b> LCD patient monitors on fixed mounts may fall on patients or staff if the mount is damaged during use.	▶ ②								
<b>Action by:</b> This notice should be brought to the attention of all appropriate managers, staff and users.	▶ ③								
<b>Action:</b> This notice targets LCD monitors on fixed mounts attached to walls, rails and pendants etc. All mounted LCD patient monitors should be identified and inspected by a suitably qualified person (for further action see page 2).	▶ ④								
<b>Distributed by NIAIC to:</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Chief Executive of each HSS Board</td> <td style="width: 50%;">General Medical Practitioners</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive of each HSS Trust</td> <td>General Dental Practitioners</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chief Executive of each Agency</td> <td>Hospices</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NIAIC Liaison Officers</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Chief Executive of each HSS Board	General Medical Practitioners	Chief Executive of each HSS Trust	General Dental Practitioners	Chief Executive of each Agency	Hospices	NIAIC Liaison Officers		▶ ⑤
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<b>Contacts</b> Details of manufacturer contacts and NIAIC contacts for technical aspects.	▶ ⑥								
<b>Feedback Requirements to NIAIC</b> None required.	▶ ⑦								

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

## 1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

LCD patient monitors on fixed mounts: risk of falling

## 2. PROBLEM:

An incident has been reported in which an LCD patient monitor mounted on a pendant over a bed space detached from its mounting and fell. The bed space was occupied but fortunately no injury occurred.

The monitor had been mounted using an alloy mounting plate and a G-clamp. The mounting plate had threaded inserts through which screws attached it to the monitor's back panel. The mounting plate was connected to a fixed G-clamp which could not be adjusted for tilt and swivel.

On examination, it was found that the threaded inserts had detached from the mounting plate due to stresses having been applied repeatedly over a period of time. It was concluded that users had attempted to tilt and swivel the monitor for ease of viewing.

The investigation further concluded that routine inspection would have allowed the damage to be detected prior to the failure, and that a tilt / swivel clamp would have been more appropriate for this application.

## 3. ACTION BY:

This notice should be brought to the attention of all appropriate managers, staff and users.

## 4. ACTION:

1. All mounted LCD patient monitors should be identified and inspected by a suitably qualified person.
  - It should be noted whether the mount is fixed or adjustable for tilt and swivel.
  - Mounts showing evidence of wear or damage to the fixings should be regarded as unsafe.
  - Bed spaces with unsafe monitor mounts should not be used until suitable corrective action has been completed, e.g. remove, repair or replace the affected parts.
2. A review should be carried out on all LCD patient monitors currently on fixed mounts and consideration given to replacement with an adjustable (tilt and swivel) mount.
3. Where a fixed mount is to be retained but it is anticipated that users could attempt to tilt / swivel the monitor, consideration should be given to placing a suitable warning that the mount does not adjust in this way and that no attempt should be made to tilt or swivel.
4. All mounted LCD patient monitors should be included in a programme of routine inspection and maintenance.
  - Inspections should check the condition of all parts that comprise the system including brackets, clamps, mounting arms, inserts, bolts and screws.

## 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
- Clinical Governance Leads
- Device Managers
- Estates Managers
- Nurse Directors
- All Wards
- Special Care Baby Units
- Maternity Wards
- Paediatric Units
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Hospitals & Clinics through RQIA
- Operating Theatre Staff
- Outpatient Departments
- Accident & Emergency Departments
- Coronary Care
- Intensive Care
- Day Procedure Units

## 6. CONTACTS:

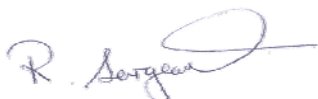
Enquiries to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2007/99 and be addressed to:

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](mailto: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](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic)

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