

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

The Etac patient turner (also known as a Samhall turner) is an aid that is used to transfer a person who can stand but is unable to independently complete a sit-to-stand or stand-to-sit manoeuvre from one seated position to another.

Some Etac patient turners with model number 411973300 have an open gap of 14 cm in the top of the handle (see appendix). The same model number is also used on patient turners with a closed handle system, which are not affected.

The Etac patient turners may have been purchased directly from the UK distributor, Nordic Care Services, or from a third party supplier.

2. PROBLEM:

The MHRA has received reports of a number of incidents where the Etac patient turner has been used with patients who have slumped forward during transfer, trapping their head in the gap in the handle.

To remove this risk the manufacturer and UK distributor are carrying out a modification programme to close the gap completely. The handle modification kit is being provided by Nordic Care Services with full fitting instructions and can be fitted quickly using a screwdriver.

This modification programme does not apply to other models of Etac patient turners.

3. ACTION BY:

All those involved in the provision, prescription and use of patient turners. In particular loan store managers, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and carers.

4. ACTION:

- Trace all Etac patient turners model number 411973300 in use and in storage.
- From these identify patient turners with a 14 cm gap in the handle (see appendix).
- Obtain a handle modification kit from Nordic Care Services to close the 14 cm gap in the handle (see contact on page 3).
- Arrange for the handle modification kit to be fitted.

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:

- Back care/manual handling advisors
- Equipment stores
- Health and safety managers
- Loan store managers
- Maintenance staff
- Nursing executive directors
- Nursing staff
- Occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Purchasing managers
- Risk managers
- Supplies managers
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through RQIA
- Domiciliary care providers
- Nursing agencies
- Care management team managers
- Community care staff
- Day centres

6. CONTACTS:

Enquiries to manufacturer should be addressed to:

Sonja Waara-Conway
Nordic Care Services
Becket Lodge
Harbledown Park
Canterbury
Kent CT2 8NR

Tel: 01227 479 293
Fax: 01227 477 958
E-mail: Sonja@walkeze.co.uk

Enquiries to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2008/019 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

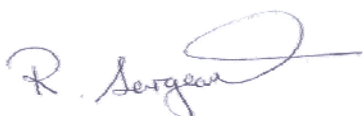
7. FEEDBACK:

Action deadlines for the Safety Alert Broadcast System for HPSS Trusts (SABS)

Acknowledge Receipt of Alert:
28st March 2008

Action Under Way:
25th April 2008

Action Complete:
25th June 2008



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)2007/01. 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)2008 – 019

14 cm gap to be closed by modification kit



Etac Patient Turner with 14 cm gap in handle