

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

The 2000 Series shower seat (with or without cushions) is fixed to a wall and the hinged seat can be used with its support legs or stored folded flat against the wall.

Affected model numbers with 7 wall fixings are: 02000, 02000P, 02200P, 02010, 02010P, 02210P.
Affected model numbers with 5 wall fixings are: 02130, 02130P, 02230P.

2. PROBLEM:

There have been five reported incidents where the seat has flexed allowing the support legs to move away from the vertical, causing the seat to drop suddenly to a 45 degree angle. The user subsequently slipped from the seat and fell.

In two of the incidents the seat flexing problem was made worse as the seats had not been fitted correctly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The manufacturer has produced a modification kit to retain the support legs in position. The modification can be fitted easily with the hexagon key supplied in the kit.

3. ACTION BY:

All those involved in the provision and maintenance of shower seats. In particular community care staff, occupational therapists, and maintenance staff or contractors.

4. ACTION:

- Trace all AKW Medi-Care Limited 2000 Series shower seats purchased from 01 July 2006 to 30 September 2007 inclusive that are in use or in storage.
- Obtain a modification kit and seat fitting instructions from AKW Medi-Care Limited (see contact on page 2).
- Arrange for the modification kit to be fitted and check that the number of wall fixings is in accordance with the manufacturer's fitting instructions.

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:

- Community hospitals
- Community nurses
- Equipment libraries and stores
- Health & safety managers
- Maintenance staff and contractors
- Nursing directors
- Occupational therapists
- Palliative care team
- Physiotherapists
- 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:

Gemma Proctor
AKW Medi-Care Limited
Pointon Way
Hampton Lovett
Droitwich Spa
WR9 0LR

Tel: 01905 823 285
Fax: 0844 800 9747

E-mail: gproctor@akw-medicare.co.uk

Enquiries to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2008/020 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

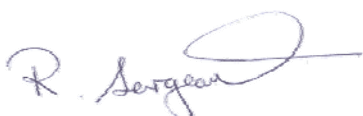
7. FEEDBACK:

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

Acknowledge Receipt of Alert:
28st March 2008

Action Under Way:
28th April 2008

Action Complete:
26th 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