

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

Mermaid, Dipper and Ranger bath hoists manufactured by Joerns Healthcare (part of Sunrise Medical Ltd).

2. PROBLEM:

The MHRA has investigated reports of injuries caused by occupants falling from the seat during use. Investigations revealed that there are two main problems.

1. The seat unit was not secure on the hoist frame.
2. The hoist is not fitted with any form of safety belt to stop the occupant falling from the seat if they start to slip down.

(Note the NIAIC has already issued a general Medical Device Alert (MDEA(NI)2008-041) in June 2008 covering point 2.)

Joerns Healthcare issued a Field Safety Notice (FSN) in August 2008 recommending the fitting and use of a safety belt available from Joerns Healthcare. Unfortunately the belt and fitting instructions in the FSN do not adequately remove the risk. The belt is not securely anchored to the hoist frame in an appropriate position and the belt material is not easy to clean effectively where required between different hoist occupants. A further FSN to clarify the security of the seat unit to the frame has not yet been issued.

Joerns Healthcare have been requested to provide a more suitable belt and its method of fixing to the seat frame and also details of the fitting and maintenance checks required to ensure that the seat unit is adequately secured during the use of the hoist. Joerns are currently working to provide an acceptable solution. Until these are available the hoists should be removed from use.

3. ACTION BY:

All those involved in the provision, use or maintenance of these hoists. In particular nurses, care staff, moving and handling co-ordinators and maintenance staff or contractors.

4. ACTION:

- Trace all Mermaid, Dipper and Ranger bath hoists.
- Remove these hoists from use until an appropriate solution to reduce this risk of a fall has been implemented.

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 managers
- Health and safety managers
- Maintenance staff and contractors
- Moving and handling co-ordinators
- Nursing executive directors
- Nursing staff
- Occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Purchasing managers
- Risk managers
- Safety officers
- Community equipment stores
- Community hospitals
- District nurses
- Directors of Public Health
- Social Care Staff
- Community Care Staff
- Day Care Centres
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers – Private Clinics, Residential and Nursing Homes through RQIA
- Sterile Services Departments
- Operating Theatre Staff
- Outpatient Departments
- Infection Control Staff

6. CONTACTS:

Enquiries to manufacturer should be addressed to:

Joerns Customer Services Department
High Street
Wollaston
West Midlands DY8 4PS

Tel: 01384 446 622

Fax: 01384 446 601

E-mail: info@joerns.co.uk

Enquiries to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2008/082 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

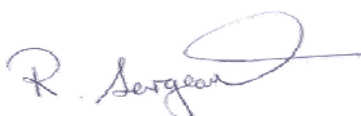
7. FEEDBACK:

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

Acknowledge Receipt of Alert:
12th Nov 2008

Action Under Way:
21st Nov 2008

Action Complete:
12 Dec 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)2008/01. 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