

# Medical Device/Equipment ALERT



**NORTHERN  
IRELAND  
ADVERSE  
INCIDENT  
CENTRE**

**For:**

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

	Section
<p><b>Medical Device/Equipment:</b> Batteries and Auxiliary Power Supply leads for Critical Care Medical Devices used during the transfer of acutely ill patients including Neonates</p>	▶ ①
<p><b>Problem:</b> Failure of critical care medical devices caused by battery and auxiliary power supply lead problems.</p>	▶ ②
<p><b>Action by:</b> Managers and designated staff with responsibility for medical device and equipment management and staff with responsibility for critical care medical device management used in acutely ill patient transfer.</p>	▶ ③
<p><b>Action:</b> Ensure that medical device and equipment management policies and procedures are in place that include for: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• periodic battery checks by appropriately qualified personnel in line with the guidance given in Device Bulletin DB 9904 (NI) and Device Bulletin DB 9902 (NI);</li> <li>• ready identification of batteries for use with specific medical devices;</li> <li>• following manufacturer's instructions for charging, maintaining and replacing batteries by users;</li> <li>• critical care medical devices for use in patient transfers are in a fully charged state when taken from charging stations at wards and old batteries are removed from ward areas when replacements are provided;</li> <li>• critical care medical devices for use in patient transfers should be supplied at all times with dedicated auxiliary power leads as recommended by the medical device manufacturer for use with ambulance power supplies (normally 12 Volt D.C.).</li> </ul>	▶ ④
<p><b>Distributed by NIAIC to:</b></p> <p>Chief Executive of each HSS Board Chief Executive of each Agency</p> <p>Chief Executive of each HSS Trust NIAIC Liaison Officers</p> <p><b>For onward distribution see Section 5</b></p>	▶ ⑤
<p><b>Contacts</b> NIAIC contacts for technical aspects</p>	▶ ⑥
<p><b>Feedback Requirements to NIAIC</b> None Required</p>	▶ ⑦

**Issued: 18 April 2003**

**Ref. MDEA(NI)2003/05**

## 1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

Batteries and auxiliary power supply connectors for critical care medical devices such as patient monitors and portable ventilators used in the transfer of acutely ill patients.

## 2. PROBLEM:

NIAIC has been informed of an adverse incident in which critical care devices failed during the transfer of an acutely ill patient. On investigation, it would appear that the device failures were associated with battery care/maintenance. Problems were also experienced with powering a particular device using the available auxiliary power supply connector lead.

Managers and staff should ensure that previously issued guidance concerning battery care and maintenance is followed: -

- Safety Action Notice SAN(97)/06 "Batteries Used in Critical Care Devices";
- Device Bulletin DB 9904 (NI) "Medical Device and Equipment Management for Hospital and Community Based Organisations";
- Device Bulletin DB 9902 (NI) "The Safe and Effective use of batteries for medical devices"

In addition, Managers and Staff should ensure that critical care devices used during the transfer of acutely ill patients should be supplied at all times with **dedicated** auxiliary power leads as recommended by the medical device manufacturer for use with ambulance power supplies (normally 12 Volt D.C.).

## 3. ACTION BY:

As outlined on Page 1

## 4. ACTION:

As outlined on Page 1

## 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:

- Risk Managers
- Health & Safety Officers/Advisors
- Clinical Governance Leads
- Device Managers
- Estates Managers
- Medical Directors
- Nursing Directors
- Independent Healthcare providers including Private Clinics
- Operating Theatre Staff
- Accident & Emergency Departments
- All Intensive Care Units
- High Dependency Units
- Ambulance Staff and Paramedics

## 6. CONTACTS:

Enquires to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2003/05 and be addressed to:  
Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC), Health Estates, Estate Policy Directorate, Stoney Road, Dundonald, Belfast BT16 1US, Tel: 028 9052 3714, Fax: 028 9052 3900  
Email: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk

## 7. FEEDBACK:

None Required

Brian Godfrey

NIAIC 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 Safety Notice SN (NI) 2003/01. 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)

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

Issued: 18 April 2003

Ref. MDEA(NI)2003/05