

Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2004/03

Issued: 19 January 2004

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	✓
ACTION	
UPDATE	
INFORMATION REQUEST	

	Section
Medical Device/Equipment: Anaesthetic equipment and associated devices	▶ ①
Problem: A major contributory cause of anaesthetic misadventures, resulting at worse in hypoxic brain damage or death, has been the use of anaesthetic machines and/or breathing systems which had not been adequately checked beforehand.	▶ ②
Action by: Anaesthetists, operating department practitioners, anaesthetic nurses and all staff using anaesthetic equipment and associated devices.	▶ ③
Action: The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) has published an updated version of 'Checking Anaesthetic Equipment' endorsed by the Royal College of Anaesthetists, accompanied by a new checklist. The new 'Checklist for Anaesthetic Equipment 2004' is attached to this alert and should always be followed before using anaesthetic equipment and associated devices.	▶ ④
Distributed by NIAIC to: Chief Executive of each HSS Board Chief Executive of each HSS Trust Chief Executive of each Agency NIAIC Liaison Officers For onward distribution see Section 5	▶ ⑤ General Dental Practitioners
Contacts Details of AAGBI contacts, NIAIC contacts for technical and clinical aspects.	▶ ⑥
Feedback Requirements to NIAIC None	▶ ⑦

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

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

Anaesthetic machines, monitoring equipment, medical gas supplies, vaporizers, breathing systems and components, ventilators, scavenging systems, ancillary equipment and any other associated devices.

2. PROBLEM:

A major contributory cause of anaesthetic misadventures, resulting at worse in hypoxic brain damage or death, has been the use of anaesthetic machines and/or breathing systems which had not been adequately checked beforehand.

3. ACTION BY:

Anaesthetic machines and associated devices are also used outside operating theatres; therefore other users including accident and emergency staff, paramedics, dentists and clinical perfusion scientists should be aware of the checklist.

4. ACTION:

The full text of 'Checking Anaesthetic Equipment', Edition 3, 2004 can be found on the AAGBI website at www.aagbi.org/guidelines.html. Laminated copies of the 2 page checklist are available from the AAGBI and should be attached to every anaesthetic machine. This alert has been written in conjunction with the AAGBI to highlight and endorse the publication of the new checklist.

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
- Estates Managers
- Medical Directors
- Nurse Directors
- Ambulance Staff and Paramedics
- Adult/Paediatric/Neonatal Intensive Therapy Units
- Anaesthetic Nurses
- Anaesthetists
- Operating Theatre Staff
- Accident & Emergency Departments
- Clinical perfusion scientists
- Day Surgery Units
- Directors of Anaesthesia
- Theatre Managers
- Independent Healthcare Providers – Private Clinics

6. CONTACTS:

Enquiries to the AAGBI should be addressed to:
Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland
21 Portland Place
London W1B 1PY

Tel: 020 7631 1650

Fax: 020 7631 4352

E-mail: info@aagbi.org

Enquires to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2004/03 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:

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 MDEA(NI)2004/01. 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