

1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:

The Ibex Transeat is intended for use as an ambulance chair, and also as a disability access chair. It is designed to be transported up or down stairs by two operators, one at the head-end of the chair and one at the foot-end.

This advice applies only to the Ibex Transeat Mk4 and Mk 5 chairs manufactured by 21st Medical Ltd. These chairs might have been supplied by a third party, such as an ambulance builder. Affected chairs will have the name '21st Medical Ltd' on the label that bears the CE mark and lot number.

21st Medical Ltd has ceased trading, and the Ibex Transeat is now manufactured by Paraid / Evac+Chair International Ltd, who are able to provide replacement parts and maintenance support for the earlier chairs. Chairs manufactured by Paraid / Evac+Chair International Ltd are not affected by this alert.

2. PROBLEM:

The height adjustable handle is intended to be secured in place by a locating pin with a red knob. It is possible to over extend the height adjustable handle beyond the adjustment holes, so that the locating pin rests on the end stop. The end stop is not a load bearing part, and may fail with a patient on the chair.

NIAIC has been made aware of reports of the height adjustable T-bar handle becoming detached from the backrest of the Ibex Transeat. This has resulted in the foot-end operator taking the full weight of the loaded chair, with potential injury for both the foot-end operator and the patient.

3. ACTION BY:

All those involved in the use, maintenance or supply of this device, and those responsible for training the users.

4. ACTION:

- Determine whether the Ibex Transeat was manufactured by 21st Medical Ltd.
- Obtain the updated instructions for use from Paraid / Evac+Chair International Ltd (Tel: 0121 706 6744).
Note: Instructions for use issued by 21st Medical Ltd, including the video 'Ibex the movie', have been superseded and should no longer be used.
- Ensure that all users of the Ibex Transeat have been trained to use it, and are aware of the adjustment limits of the height adjustable handle. As described in the updated instructions for use, the red height setting knob must be fully in, so that the locating pin engages securely into one of the adjustment holes.
- Consider having the Ibex Transeat upgraded by Paraid / Evac+Chair International Ltd, to create a load bearing end stop. This simple modification changes the end stop so that it is not possible for the height adjustable handle to extend beyond the last adjustment hole.

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:

- Liaison Officers
- Ambulance Staff and Paramedics
- Accident & Emergency Departments
- Risk Managers
- Health & Safety Officers/Advisors
- Clinical Governance Leads
- Fire Officers
- Facilities Managers
- Manual handling/back care advisors
- Social Care Staff
- Community Care Staff
- Day Care Centres
- Independent Health and Social Care Providers
- Day Procedure Units
- Residential and Nursing Homes
- Medical Directors
- Nurse Directors
- Medical, Nursing and Care Staff

6. CONTACTS:

Enquiries to the manufacturer should be addressed to:

Technical Department

Paraid / Evac+Chair International Ltd.

Paraid House

Weston Lane

Birmingham

B11 3RS

Tel: 0121 706 6744

Fax: 0121 706 6746

E-mail: info@paraid.co.uk

Enquires to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2004/38 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