



DEFECT & INVESTIGATION CENTRE

FOR ACTION BY:

Chief Executive of each HSS Trust
General Manager/Chief Executive of each HSS Board
General Manager/Chief Executive of each Agency

Stoney Road Dundonald Belfast
Northern Ireland BT16 1US

Telephone 028 90 523714
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HN(NI) 2000/22

Date: 16 September 2000

Product	:	HOSKINS HEALTHCARE 'RONDO' VARIABLE HEIGHT COUCH - RISK OF COLLAPSE
Manufacturer/ Supplier	:	HOSKINS HEALTHCARE LIMITED
Problem	:	RISK OF INJURY FROM COLLAPSE OF RONDO VARIABLE HEIGHT COUCHES MANUFACTURED BETWEEN 1993 AND 1997.
Action	:	CONTACT MANUFACTURER

HAZARD

1. ATTENTION CHIEF EXECUTIVES/GENERAL MANAGERS

This notice should be brought to the immediate attention of all who need to know, or be aware of it including those listed below, in accordance with local procedures, and immediate action should be taken as detailed aside:

- Nursing Executive Directors
- Medical, Nursing and Care Staff
- Occupational Therapy Services
- Carers of the Elderly
- Community Health Facilities
- Supplies Staff
- Safety Officers
- Risk Managers
- Chairs of Primary Care Groups
- Registration Inspection Units
- Nursing Homes
- Hospices
- Risk Managers
- Residential Care Homes

Boards/Trusts should ensure that if appropriate, this information is passed to **ALL** persons having the responsibility for premises registered under "THE REGISTERED HOMES (NI) ORDER 1992".



An Executive Agency of the Department of Health and Social Services and Public Safety

2. IMMEDIATE ACTION

All users of Hoskins Rondo Variable Height couches should check the serial number to establish if any are within the range 93001 to 96603. The serial number is to be found on a label fixed to the side of the couch (see Annex). If the serial number is missing or there is any uncertainty, Hoskins Healthcare Limited should be contacted for advice.

If any are within this range, Hoskins Medical Equipment Limited should be contacted with the couch serial number to enable corrective action to be implemented.

Additionally, users should inspect the areas around the welded joints between the main central support bar and both end members (see Annex). If any cracks are visible the couch should be immediately withdrawn from use.

3. BACKGROUND

The Department has received reports of joint failures around each end of the main base central support on the Rondo Variable Height couch, posing a risk of injury to patients and/or staff, should collapse occur.

Hoskins Medical Equipment Limited believe that these couches have been used inappropriately as patient transfer devices which has contributed to the failures.

The manufacturer has produced a Service Bulletin, shown in the Annex to this notice, illustrating the areas to be inspected for signs of cracking. The location of the serial number label is also shown.

4. ENQUIRIES

Enquiries to the manufacturer should be addressed to:

Ray Cooke
Quality Assurance Manager
Hoskins Medical Equipment Limited
Admail 1001
Birmingham B1 1HJ

Tel: 0121 707 6600
Fax: 0121 707 6688

Enquiries regarding this notice should be addressed as follows:

NORTHERN IRELAND DEFECT & INVESTIGATION CENTRE (NIDIC)
Health Estates
Estate Policy
Stoney Road
Dundonald
Belfast BT16 1US *marked for the attention of Mr Brian Godfrey*

Tel: 028 90 523714
Fax: 028 90 523900
Email: brian.godfrey@dhsspsni.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

BRIAN GODFREY
Defect Centre Manager

HOW TO REPORT DEFECTS

Professional Estate Letter PEL(93)36 issued by Estate Services Directorate, on 27th July 1994 advises Health and Social Services Boards, HSS Trusts and agencies how to notify HPSS about accidents with and defects in medicinal products, buildings and plant and other medical and non medical equipment and supplies.

