

**SN (NI) 2002/26**

**DATE: 2 July 2002**

**For Attention and Action by:  
Chief Executive of each HSS Trust  
General Manager/Chief Executive of each HSS Board  
Chief Executive of each Agency**



HEALTH ESTATES  
ESTATE POLICY

**NORTHERN  
IRELAND  
ADVERSE  
INCIDENT  
CENTRE**

**TITLE:**

**OXFORD MAJOR, MAXI AND MIDI PATIENT  
HOISTS FITTED WITH OXFORD DIGITAL  
WEIGHSCALES: RISK OF SPREADER BAR  
DETACHMENT**

**MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER**

Sunrise Medical Ltd

**PROBLEM**

Risk of injury from detachment of the spreader bar

**DISTRIBUTION**

This notice should be brought to the attention of all who need to know or be aware of it, including those listed below, in accordance with local procedures. This will include:

- Liaison Officers
- Risk Managers
- Health & Safety Officers/Advisors
- Device Managers
- Estates Managers
- Medical, Nursing and Care Staff
- Supplies Staff
- Maternity Wards
- Outpatient Departments
- Professions Allied to Medicine
- Social Care Staff
- Community Care Staff
- Day Procedure Units
- Residential and Nursing Homes
- Day Care Services for Elderly and Disabled People
- Hospices

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

**ACTION**

All those responsible for the maintenance and provision of the above devices must establish if the weighscale unit is of the type illustrated in Figure 1, Annex 1.

- If it is, ensure that there is a white label affixed to the rear of the weighscale unit, bearing the CE marking and Oxford logo in blue text. If so, no further action is necessary and use can be resumed.
- If the unit has no label affixed, the hoist **must be withdrawn from use immediately** and Sunrise Medical Ltd contacted via their Customer Service Centre.
- If the weighscale unit is of any type other than that illustrated in Figure 1 it is not implicated in this Safety Notice.

**SAFETY**

**NOTICE**

## BACKGROUND

The 'Oxford Digital Scale model 1200' units affected were sold with the hoist or as part of a spreader bar assembly, between July 1997 and April 2000.

They have a 'near-square' brushed stainless steel casing and a digital LCD weight display and are easily identified by comparison with the figures in Annex 1.

Sunrise Medical Ltd recently recalled the majority of these non CE marked units via a Technical Bulletin sent to their distributors. It had been found that, in a small number of cases, the units' attachment to the lift arm had catastrophically failed in service, resulting in the detachment of the unit and the spreader bar.

A replacement CE marked weighscale unit was produced by Sunrise Medical. The CE marking is present, together with the Oxford logo, on a white label with blue text on the back of the weighscale unit. The Sunrise Customer Service Centre has been co-ordinating the recall and the reissue of FOC replacement units.

There remains, however, a small number of model 1200 units that Sunrise Medical Ltd has been unable to trace. Any hoists found with these units fitted must not be used until they have been replaced by Sunrise Medical Ltd. They must be reported to the Sunrise Customer Service Centre, telephone number below.

Additionally, any spreader bars found in storage with the model 1200 units fitted should also be reported to them.

## ENQUIRIES

Enquires to the manufacturer should be addressed to:  
Sunrise Customer Service Centre  
Sunrise Medical Ltd  
High Street  
Wollaston  
DY8 4PS

Tel: 01384 446 666

Enquires to the NIAIC should quote the reference number SN(NI) 2002/26 and be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC)  
Health Estates  
Estate Policy Directorate  
Stoney Road  
Dundonald  
Belfast BT16 1US  
Marked for the attention of Mr Brian Godfrey

Tel: 02890 523714  
Fax: 02890 523900  
Email: [brian.godfrey@dhsspsni.gov.uk](mailto:brian.godfrey@dhsspsni.gov.uk)

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) 2002/01. 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  
Áisíneacht Feidhmeannach don Roinn Sláinte. Serbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteacht Phoiblí*



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