

**SN (NI) 2002/27**  
**DATE: 22 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 ELECTRIC & HYDRAULIC  
HOISTS - RISK OF MAST FAILURE**

**MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER**

Sunrise Medical Ltd

**PROBLEM**

In 1998, Safety Notice SN(NI)98/18 and the accompanying Sunrise Medical Ltd. Safety Bulletin advised that mast failures had occurred with Oxford Major patient hoists manufactured between 1994 and 1995.

Recent reports suggest some affected masts may still be in use, presenting a risk to those using the hoists.

**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
- Professions Allied to Medicine
- Social Care Staff
- Community Care Staff
- Day Procedure Units
- Residential & 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**

Users of Oxford Major patient hoists should check the serial numbers on the mast to establish if any are within the range OM(E) 53100 to OM(E) 72000.

- If so, users should refer to Annex 1, which describes the correct and incorrect mast weld profiles.
- If incorrect weld profiles are evident, or if there is any doubt as to their status, users should contact Sunrise Medical Ltd. on the help-line number provided for advice.
- If any visible defect is apparent in this area, such as cracking of the plastic coating, the hoist should be immediately withdrawn from use and arrangements should be made for the mast to be inspected by Sunrise Medical Ltd.

**SAFETY**

**NOTICE**

## BACKGROUND

Reports are still being received of mast failures occurring on Oxford Major patient hoists due to over-fettled welds reducing the strength of the masts.

It appears that in some cases affected hoists have been overlooked or the weld profiles have been incorrectly assessed.

In conjunction with Sunrise Medical Ltd. it has been agreed that all users of hoists within the serial number range OM(E) 53100 to OM(E) 72000 should re-check these welds as originally advised, as per the diagram in Annex 1.

If there is any doubt as to the condition or shape of this welded joint, Sunrise Medical Ltd. should be contacted on the help-line number given below.

Faulty masts will be replaced by Sunrise Medical Ltd.

## ENQUIRIES

Enquires to the manufacturer should be addressed to:

Sunrise Customer Service Centre  
Sunrise Medical Ltd  
High Street  
Wollaston  
DY8 4PS

Tel: 01384 446 771

Enquires to the NIAIC should quote the reference number SN(NI) 2002/27 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)

*Heath 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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