

SN (NI) 2002/37
DATE: 20 December 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:
**HILL-ROM VARIABLE HEIGHT RESUSCITAIRE
RADIANT WARMER: SAFE CONNECTION OF GAS
CYLINDERS**

MANUFACTURER/SUPPLIER

Hill-Rom

PROBLEM

When the Hill-Rom Variable Height Resuscitaire is at its minimum height, attempting to connect or disconnect a gas cylinder longer than 800 mm may cause damage to the device or injury to the operator.

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
- Medical Directors
- Nurse Directors
- Medical, Nursing and Care Staff
- Special Care Baby Units
- Maternity Wards
- Paediatric Units
- Paediatric Intensive Care Units
- Midwives
- Paediatricians
- Obstetricians
- Neonatal Units
- Accident & Emergency Departments
- Private Clinics

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 must be aware that the BOC E size cylinder with a rounded end, or any other type of cylinder longer than 800 mm, cannot be fitted or removed when the Resuscitaire is at its minimum height.
- If cylinders longer than 800 mm are used, users must adjust the Resuscitaire to an appropriate height.
- Before moving the Resuscitaire with cylinder(s) fitted, users must ensure that there is adequate clearance between the base of the cylinder and the floor.
- The variable height option can be disabled and users may wish to consider this.
- All users must be trained in the safe use and handling of medical gas cylinders, either by their employer or by the cylinder suppliers.

**SAFETY
NOTICE**

BACKGROUND

When the Hill-Rom Variable Height Resuscitaire is set to its minimum height, there is insufficient space between the gas cylinder yoke and the floor to allow fitting of a gas cylinder longer than 800 mm from the centre of the valve to the base of the cylinder. A user who tried to fit a longer cylinder without raising the Resuscitaire's height accidentally opened the cylinder valve and received cryogenic burns.

The BOC E size cylinder with a rounded end is the only type currently known to be too long to fit the Resuscitaire at its minimum height, but the same problem would exist with any cylinder longer than 800 mm. Hill-Rom are presently modifying their instructions for use and intend providing labelling for all Resuscitaires to warn of this problem.

One option for avoiding the problem is to fix the Resuscitaire's height (e.g. at 188 mm as for the fixed height version) and to remove the relevant power cable to disable the variable height facility.

All staff should be provided with training in the safe use of equipment as outlined in Device Bulletin DB9904 (NI), "Medical Device and Equipment Management for Hospital and Community Based Organisations"

ENQUIRIES

Enquiries to the manufacturer should be addressed to:

Darren Hunt
Hill-Rom
Clinitron House
Ashby Park
Ashby de la Zouch
Leicestershire
LE65 1JG
Tel: 01530 411 000
Fax: 01530 411 555

Enquires to the NIAIC should quote the reference number SN(NI) 2002/37 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



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

*Health Estates is an Executive Agency of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
Aisíneacht Feidhmeannach don Roinn Sláinte. Serbhísi Sóisialta agus Sábháilteacht Phoiblí*



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