

Fiona Cameron - Director of Nursing Clinical Governance

File HSE

From: Ben Smith - Contracts & Compliance Monitoring Officer
Sent: 16 December 2004 19:05
To: Neil Stubbs - Operational Director; Richard Jarczyk - Podiatry Clinical Co-ord/ Home Loans Manager; Ian Taylor - Contracts & Compliance Manager; Claire Brookes - Health & Safety / Emergency Planning Officer; Rosie Lake - Moving and Handling Nurse Specialist; Pam Phipps - Moving and Handling Nurse Specialist; Amanda Hughes - Quality Information Officer; Fiona Cameron - Director of Nursing & Clinical Governance; Sue Crane - Education Adviser
Cc: Anthony Hubbard - Contracts & Compliance Officer; Susan Lawes - Risk & Governance Manager
Subject: hoist sling failures causing injury.xls

improvement notice



hoist sling failures
causing i...

Dear All

I know this was really an aside in our last meeting about Moving and Handling re: The HSE's query about whether we have a replacement programme for hoist slings. However, I did agree to have a look to see whether any sling failures had actually happened within the 3 PCTs.

I have trawled the 25000+ incidents recorded since we have been using the safeguard system for any mention of hoist slings in the incident description. On the attached sheet are the very few incidents where a hoist sling has been said to have been at least a partial cause of a patient safety incident. There only appears to be one clear instance where the sling equipment has failed causing injury. There was some discussion at the meeting about potentially diminishing integrity of the sling material over time and depending on the way in which it is treated. To date we have not had a recorded incident where this caused a sling to fail.

I would like to add a few words of caution because I do not want this to be interpreted as an assumption that slings are low risk. Given the physical nature of some of our respective service users, a single failure of a sling causing a patient to fall could cause very serious or quite possibly fatal injuries. My other concern is that this information does not reflect situations where a sling is picked up as dangerously degraded and removed from use by a nurse. These are not reported as incidents rather replacements are ordered. Without a replacement program we are placing complete reliance on nurses remembering to sufficiently check each area of the hoist and sling. Richard - I suspect it might be terribly difficult to pick out from the community equipment request forms where existing slings have been reported faulty (?)

I hope this of some interest to a few of you.

Best wishes

Ben

Ben Smith
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Form No.	Site	Department	Directorate	Location	Location Detail	Incident Date	Time
12585	Redclyffe Bungalows A&B	Not Applicable	LD Home - Health	Bedroom		22/07/2002	08:30
12584 (same incident as above - impact on patient rather than staff)	Redclyffe Bungalows A&B	Not Applicable	LD Home - Health	Bedroom	DO NOT DOUBLE COUNT!!	22/07/2002	08:30
49414	St Mary's Hospital	Kingsclere Ward	Elderly Medicine	Bathroom		09/11/2003	20:00
50663	Gosport War Memorial Hospital	Collingwood	Elderly Mental Health	Corridor/lift		20/12/2003	16:30
18098	Jubilee House	Not Applicable	Elderly Medicine	Bedroom		15/11/2003	09:00

Cause 1	Cause 2	Incident Description	Contributor y Factors	Incident Type	Referred To	Signed By
Bumped/caught In/struck By	Equipment Failure	As we were hoisting client out of his bed, the safety connections snapped causing him to fall out of his sling. His fall was broken by myself.	Defective Equipment	Staff Incident	Occupation al Health/HR	s
Equipment Failure		As he was being hoisted out of bed, the safety connections snapped causing Stephen to fall out of the sling. His fall was broken by staff member.	Defective Equipment	Patient Incident	Occupation al Health/HR	
Equipment (Causing Injury)		Pt showed SN where she had bruising on forearm from where hoist sling has chaffed when hoisted. Assured that would make staff aware and to hoist different.		Patient Incident		
Fall (Seen/reported)	Bumped/ca ught In/struck By	Fell through sling on stand aid. Hit head on door frame of bathroom. Examined by trained Nurse for injuries and transferred to wheelchair. Wound to back of head cleaned and wound closures used.	Accident - Unforeseen	Patient Incident		1
Found with injury (cause unknown)		HCSW identified a large bruise in the bend of the knee - could have been caused by the hoist sling. HCSW reported the injury to Pt assessed. Examined hoist sling and not appropriate - too large, sling was therefore changed.		Patient Incident		

Cause Group	Site Type	Service	Grade	Severity	Risk Rating	Likelihood	Organisation
Impact/Collisions	LD Community Home	Fareham & Gosport PCT	Medium				LD Community Home
Equipment	LD Community Home	Fareham & Gosport PCT	Medium				LD Community Home
Equipment	Hospital - General	East Hampshire PCT	Medium				Hospital
Slips/Trips/Falls	Community Hospital	East Hampshire PCT	High - Near Miss				Community Hospital
Accident (Unforeseen)	Community Hospital	East Hampshire PCT	Low				Community Hospital

Equipment	Description	Retained	Injury Type	
		N	Bruising	
		N	No Apparent Injury	
		N	Bruising	
		N	Abrasion	
		N	Bruising	