

Fiona Cameron - Director of Nursing Clinical Governance

From: Ben Smith - Contracts & Compliance Monitoring Officer
Sent: 11 November 2004 16:38
To: Neil Stubbs - Operational Director; Fiona Cameron - Director of Nursing & Clinical Governance
Cc: Sue Crane - Education Adviser; Susannah Long - Business Assurance Manager
Subject: FW: Moving and Handling Improvement Notice - Hoist Slings

Dear all

Thanks Neil - I am happy with the proposed wording
 I am going to our Rembrandt unit to double check their M&H risk assessments (as they don't have the same maintenance programme as our other hoists) and then I think we will all be in pretty much the same boat.

I felt should share an Estates view with you... see below

Ben

-----Original Message-----

From: Anthony Hubbard - Contracts & Compliance Officer
Sent: 11 November 2004 15:09
To: Ben Smith - Contracts & Compliance Monitoring Officer
Cc: Ian Taylor - Contracts & Compliance Manager
Subject: RE: Moving and Handling Improvement Notice - Hoist Slings

Ben

The more I look at this the requirements of LOLER stare back at me, that is 6 monthly inspections on lifting equipment that lift people the same as the hoist.

Implications, all slings will need to be marked with a unique identifier, safe working load, some form of record card generated, and the sling inspected by the insurance company our competent person,

The cost of this will not be inconsiderate.

First challenge would finding and marking them all.

It will be necessary to test them if we cannot find the original test certificates/certificate of compliance, at this point it may be more cost effective to replace all the slings where the information cannot be found.

I am still working on the life question as I still feel that 5 years is a maximum life if the sling is not culled before, but I need to further investigate with the manufactures and the MHRA.

Tony

-----Original Message-----

From: Ben Smith - Contracts & Compliance Monitoring Officer
Sent: 11 November 2004 13:27
To: Anthony Hubbard - Contracts & Compliance Officer
Subject: FW: Moving and Handling Improvement Notice - Hoist Slings

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Neil Stubbs - Operational Director
Sent: 10 November 2004 09:47
To: Ben Smith - Contracts & Compliance Monitoring Officer; Fiona Cameron - Director of Nursing & Clinical Governance; Sue Crane - Education Adviser
Cc: Sheila Clark - Chief Executive Portsmouth City PCT
Subject: RE: Moving and Handling Improvement Notice - Hoist Slings

Thankyou Ben,
 Could we agree on some wording to reflect where we are? We need to send of the update on the action plan. I understand that the 5 year cull of slings may look safe but like you I have reservations and some slings last alot less than five years. I suggest we need to build into annual inspection and encourage reporting and inspection whenever the slings are used

As How about

All areas managed by Fareham & Gosport PCT have completed the Risk Assessment checklist. There is a process of review in place for all Community Equipment Loans. Resources are identified for the funding of hoists and slings. Maintenance checks include checks of slings. It is recognised that that further work is needed to ensure that hoist users are alert to the need to inspect and report. This will be highlighted in the revised training.

Are you in agreement to this?
Neil

-----Original Message-----

From: Ben Smith - Contracts & Compliance Monitoring Officer
Sent: 09 November 2004 17:39
To: Neil Stubbs - Operational Director; Fiona Cameron - Director of Nursing & Clinical Governance; Sue Crane - Education Adviser
Cc: Sheila Clark - Chief Executive Portsmouth City PCT
Subject: FW: Moving and Handling Improvement Notice - Hoist Slings

Dear All

I am very sorry that I may be holding up your response with this hoist sling issue.

This issue (Action point 9) was about the HSE inspector's query as to whether we have a regular replacement programme in place. Unless the slings are uniquely identifiable the only way of achieving this would be to collect them all in after e.g. 5 years and throw them away (no matter how or how much they had been used) - the logistics of this might be prohibitive.

I don't feel I could say PCPCT has addressed this issue to a point that the inspector would be satisfied. There is work in progress though. Estates (who have now accompanied every hoist with a logbook) are worried about the lack of identification on the slings preventing checks being recorded. Some have faded to the point that they are almost white. I am not sure that we even know whether the integrity of the sling is not compromised by the way in which they are laundered (and patient's homes especially since the way equipment is treated is variable)

Speaking to Richard Jarzcyk in Community Equipment Loans, they claim someone there checks them before issues and regularly monitors the 'stock' for signs of damage. Test Valley have a maintenance contract to check hoists and slings and to report signs of damage also - these are immediately recalled and replaced. There is a debate over what the LOLER inspector will look at re: slings. Estates suggest we cannot rely on any of this as there is no identifier to prove what was checked anyway.

I have suggested to Richard that when issuing hoist slings, a card should go with them (for patients / carers) to say that "if anyone comes to inspect or maintain the hoist when in the home, they must make ALL hoist slings issued to them available".

Please see my email to Rosie below as, in the absence of anything else that could cover us legally, I think is important to ensure the training equips nurses with the information to do their bit with respect to not using a sling that is obviously perished. Estates might be able to contribute.

Sorry not more concise but thought I should keep you all informed.

Thanks

Ben

-----Original Message-----

From: Ben Smith - Contracts & Compliance Monitoring Officer
Sent: 09 November 2004 10:04
To: Rosie Lake - Moving and Handling Nurse Specialist
Subject: Moving and Handling Training
Importance: High

Dear Rosie.

I have been having a chat with Estates about Hoist Slings and the current difficulties in putting in place a replacement programme for them... (the slings not estates!).

The Contracts & Compliance Team said that they had spoken to you about building the LOLER requirements

in to the training re: Risk assessment of all equipment to be used in the a lift abd carrying out a user check of that equipment. Looking at the Moving and Handling Risk Assessment the only questions that appear to refer to a hoist sling are as follows:

Is handling equipment suitable, sufficient and fit for the purpose for:

- a) the client group?
- b) the manoeuvres it is being used for ?
- c) the environment it is being used in?

Is there an equipment replacement programme in place (for hoists and slings)?

Are records of handling training and the equipment each member of staff has been trained to use kept up to date on the ward?

According to Estates, the second question can not be answered in the affirmative for Hoist Slings until the hoist slings are uniquely identifiable (which they are not at present). So, initially I think we may need to look at what is (or going to be) provided for users by way of training.

Please could you confirm what is (and what is not) intended to be included.
Kind regards

Ben

Ben Smith
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Kim Wright

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