

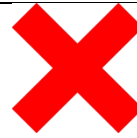
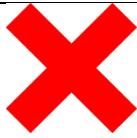
**SAFETY AND QUALITY
REMINDER OF BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

Subject	RISK OF DEATH OR SERIOUS HARM BY FALLING FROM A HOIST
HSCB reference number	SQR-SL-2020-060 (All PoCs)
Programme of care	All programmes of care

LEARNING SOURCE			
SAI/Early Alert/Adverse incident		Complaint	
Audit or other review		Coroner's inquest	
Other (Please specify) Risk identified following observation of a member of staff on a ward using hoisting equipment incorrectly.			

SUMMARY OF EVENT
A member of staff reported observing another member of ward staff attach a loop sling to a hoist with a clip hanger bar. Such practice could lead to serious harm or death of a service user.

REQUIREMENTS UNDER CURRENT GUIDANCE
<p><u>PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL STAFF INVOLVED IN THE ASSESSMENT AND HOISTING OF PATIENTS / CLIENTS ARE MADE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING:</u></p> <p>If you are using a hoist and sling from 2 different manufacturers then a hoist / sling compatibility risk assessment should be completed to ensure that it is safe to use the two items together.</p> <p>If you are using a sling with loop attachments, the loop attachments <u>should never</u> be attached to a clip hanger bar.</p> <p>If you are using a sling with clip attachments, the clip attachment <u>should never</u> be attached to a loop hanger bar.</p>



Attaching the sling to the incorrect hanger bar e.g. Attaching a sling with loop attachments to a clip hanger bar will result in a fall from a hoist and possible fatal outcome for a patient / client.



A loop sling has been designed to be used with a loop hanger bar



A clip sling has been designed to be used with a clip hanger bar



Lifting equipment, used in the context of work, is subject to the requirements of the **Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999** or **LOLER** as the regulations are commonly known. See link below.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/1999/304/contents/made>

Lifting equipment must be fit for purpose, appropriate for the task, suitably marked and, in many cases, subject to statutory periodic 'thorough examination' by a competent person.

Periodic thorough examinations during the life of the equipment are required for lifting equipment exposed to conditions which cause deterioration likely to result in dangerous situations. Typically equipment used for lifting people must be examined every 6 months. Other lifting equipment should be examined every 12 months.

It should be noted that the provision of some handling aids may bring about other risks such as those caused by unsuitable equipment or untrained staff.

Before using work equipment check the maximum user weight and safe working load. You will need to have an idea of the patient / client weight and ensure that they don't exceed the weight bearing capacity of the equipment.

Do not use equipment unless trained to do so. Visually inspect the equipment to ensure that it is in good working order and suitable for the task. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use.

Recommended checklist before using a hoist:

- You have been trained and feel confident to use the equipment.
- The person's care plan should detail that a hoist is to be used. The size and type of sling should be recorded and the leg / shoulder loop configuration stated if a loop system is used.
- If you are using a hoist and sling from 2 different manufacturers then a hoist / sling compatibility risk assessment should be completed to ensure that it is safe to use the two items together.
- The hoist should be in good working order – it should go up and down. For a mobile hoist, the legs open and close, and it moves back and forward (wheels are free running).
- You should know how to operate the emergency lowering system.
- The sling should be clean and undamaged and the label readable.
- The sling is the right size and type for the person and task.
- The safe working load (SWL) of the hoist and sling are suitable for the patient's weight and needs.
- You have explained to the person what you are going to do and have consent and cooperation to proceed.
- You know how to seek further advice and the person's needs are reviewed.

References / Evidence Base:

Health & Safety Executive Guidance on the:

The Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/1999/304/contents/made>

The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/1999/305/part/II/made>

The Guide to the Handling of People 6th Edition. Backcare in collaboration with National Back Exchange 2011.


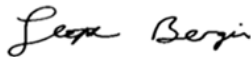

ACTION REQUIRED

HSC Trusts should:

1. Share this Reminder of Best Practice letter with all relevant staff.
2. Ensure current guidance as detailed above is being followed.
3. Ensure staff are aware of the importance of not using manual handling equipment unless trained to do so.
4. Confirm by 20 May 2020 to Alerts.HSCB@hscni.net that actions 1, 2 and 3 have been completed.

RQIA should:

1. Should share this Reminder of Best Practice letter with all relevant staff in care homes, domiciliary services and the independent sector.

Date issued	19 February 2020		
Signed:			
Issued by	Marie Roulston Director of Social Care & Childrens Directorate	PP Dr A Mairs Acting Director of Public Health	Mr Rodney Morton Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals

RE: SQR-SL-2020-060 (All PoCs) - Risk of death or serious harm by falling from a hoist – Distribution list

	To – for Action	Copy		To – for Action	Copy
HSC Trusts			PHA		
CEXs	✓		CEX		✓
First point of contact		✓	Acting Director of Public Health		✓
			Director of Nursing, Midwifery and AHPs		✓
NIAS			Director of HSCQI		✓
CEX	✓		AD Service Development, Safety and Quality		✓
First point of contact		✓	PHA Duty Room		
			AD Health Protection		
RQIA			AD Screening and Professional Standards		
CEX	✓		AD Health Improvement		
Director of Quality Improvement		✓	ADs Nursing		✓
Director of Quality Assurance		✓	AD Allied Health Professionals		✓
			Clinical Director Safety Forum		✓
NIMDTA					
CEX / PG Dean			HSCB		
QUB			CEX		
Dean of Medical School		✓	Director of Integrated Care		✓
Head of Nursing School		✓	Director of Social Services		✓
Head of Social Work School		✓	Director of Commissioning		
Head of Pharmacy School			Alerts Office		✓
Head of Dentistry School			Interim Director of PMSI		
UU					
Head of Nursing School		✓	Primary Care (through Integrated Care)		
Head of Social Work School		✓	GPs		✓
Head of Pharmacy School			Community Pharmacists		
Head of School of Health Sciences (AHP Lead)		✓	Dentists		
Open University					
Head of Nursing Branch		✓	BSO		
			Chief Executive		
Clinical Education Centre		✓			
NIPEC		✓	DoH		
NICPLD			CMO office		✓
NI Medicines Governance Team Leader for Secondary Care			CNO office		✓
NI Social Care Council			CPO office		
Safeguarding Board NI			CSSO office		
NICE Implementation Facilitator			CDO office		
Coroners Service for Northern Ireland			Safety, Quality and Standards Office		✓