

Medical Device Alert

Action

Ref: MDA/2011/010 Issued: 03 February 2011 at 14:30

Device

All slings manufactured by The Helping Hand Company for use with patient hoists and standing aids.

Problem	Action
<p>The instructions for use did not include pre-use checks of the sling material and stitching to identify faulty or damaged slings. Users are at increased risk of a fall if slings are not adequately inspected.</p> <p>The manufacturer issued a Field Safety Notice incorporating revised instructions for use in October 2010 but has not been able to trace all users.</p> <p>The cleaning instructions have also been improved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate all Helping Hand Company slings that are in use, storage or laundry. • Obtain the revised instructions for use (IFU). • Inspect all these slings in accordance with the revised IFU. • Remove any faulty or damaged slings from use and inform the manufacturer. • Ensure that all users are aware of the revised IFU and that procedures are in place to ensure that slings are inspected prior to each use.
Action by	
<p>All those involved in the provision, prescription, use and maintenance of these hoists and slings. In particular: equipment store managers, nursing home managers, nurses, moving and handling co-ordinators, occupational therapists, care staff and maintenance staff and contractors.</p>	
CAS deadlines	Contact
<p>Action underway: 03 March 2011</p> <p>Action complete: 03 May 2011</p>	<p>Manufacturer Anne Low The Helping Hand Company Tel: 01531 638 036 Fax: 01531 638 014 Email: annelow@helpinghand.co.uk</p>

Distribution

This MDA has been sent to:

- NHS trusts in England (Chief Executives)
- HSC trusts in Northern Ireland (Chief Executives)
- NHS boards in Scotland (Chief Executives)
- NHS boards and trusts in Wales (Chief Executives)
- Primary care trusts in England (Chief Executives)
- Social services in England (Directors)
- Social Services in Scotland (Chief Executives)

Onward distribution

Please bring this notice to the attention of relevant employees in your establishment. Below is a suggested list of recipients.

Trusts

CAS and SABS (NI) liaison officers for onward distribution to all relevant staff including:

- All wards
- Back care/manual handling advisors
- Equipment store managers
- Health and safety managers
- Laundry services and contractors
- Maintenance staff and contractors
- Moving and handling co-ordinators
- Nurses
- Nursing executive directors
- Occupational therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Risk managers
- Supplies departments

Primary care trusts

CAS liaison officers for onward distribution to all relevant staff including:

- Back care/manual handling advisors
- Community hospitals
- District nurses
- Equipment store managers
- Laundry services and contractors
- Maintenance staff and contractors
- Moving and handling co-ordinators
- Nurses
- Occupational therapists
- Palliative care team
- Physiotherapists
- Risk managers
- Supplies departments

Social services

Liaison officers for onward distribution to all relevant staff including:

- Back care/manual handling advisors
- Care at home staff
- Care management team managers
- Community care staff
- Day centres (older people, learning disabilities, mental health, physical disabilities, respite care, autistic services)
- Equipment store managers
- In-house domiciliary care providers (personal care services in the home)
- In-house residential care homes
- Laundry services and contractors
- Maintenance staff and contractors
- Moving and handling co-ordinators
- Occupational therapists
- Palliative care team
- Risk managers

Independent distribution

Establishments registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) (England only)

This alert should be read by:

- Care homes providing nursing care (adults)
- Care homes providing personal care (adults)
- Domiciliary care providers
- Further education colleges registered as care homes
- Hospices
- Hospitals in the independent sector
- Nursing agencies

Establishments registered with OFSTED

This alert should be read by:

- Educational establishments with hoists
- Residential special schools

Please note: CQC and OFSTED do not distribute these alerts. Independent healthcare providers and social care providers can sign up to receive MDAs directly from the Department of Health's Central Alerting System (CAS) by sending an email to: safetyalerts@dh.gsi.gov.uk and requesting this facility.

Contacts

Manufacturer

Anne Low
The Helping Hand Company
Bromyard Road Trading Estate
Ledbury
Herefordshire
HRS 1NS

Tel: 01531 638 036

Fax: 01531 638 014

Email: annelow@helpinghand.co.uk

England

If you are in England, please send enquiries about this notice to the MHRA, quoting reference number **MDA/2011/010** or **2010/003/018/401/003**.

James McVeigh or Ed Ball
Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
Centre for Assistive Technology
241 Bristol Avenue
Bispham
Blackpool FY2 0BR

Tel: 01253 596 000

Fax: 01253 596 177

Email: bav@mhra.gsi.gov.uk

How to report adverse incidents

Please report via our website <http://www.mhra.gov.uk>

Further information about **CAS** can be found at <https://www.cas.dh.gov.uk/Home.aspx>

Northern Ireland

Alerts in Northern Ireland will continue to be distributed via the NI SABS system.

Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Northern Ireland should be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre

Health Estates Investment Group

Room 17

Annex 6

Castle Buildings

Stormont Estate

Dundonald BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890 523 704

Fax: 02890 523 900

Email: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk

<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/index/hea/niaic.htm>

How to report adverse incidents in Northern Ireland

Please report directly to NIAIC, further information can be found on our website <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic>

Further information about **SABS** can be found at <http://sabs.dhsspsni.gov.uk/>

Scotland

Enquiries and adverse incident reports in Scotland should be addressed to:

Incident Reporting and Investigation Centre

Health Facilities Scotland

NHS National Services Scotland

Gyle Square

1 South Gyle Crescent

Edinburgh EH12 9EB

Tel: 0131 275 7575

Fax: 0131 314 0722

Email: nss.irc@nhs.net

<http://www.hfs.scot.nhs.uk/online-services/incident-reporting-and-investigation-centre-irc/>

Wales

Enquiries in Wales should be addressed to:

Dr Sara Hayes

Senior Medical Officer

Medical Device Alerts

Welsh Assembly Government

Cathays Park

Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Tel: 029 2082 3922

Email: Haz-Aic@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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