

PWYLLGOR IECHYD A DIOGELWCH HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	04 March 2024
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Health and Safety Update
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Sharon Daniel, Interim Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Experience
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Tim Harrison, Head of Health, Safety and Security Adam Springthorpe, Health and Safety Manager

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)

Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Er Sicrwydd/For Assurance

ADRODDIAD SCAA

SBAR REPORT

Sefyllfa / Situation

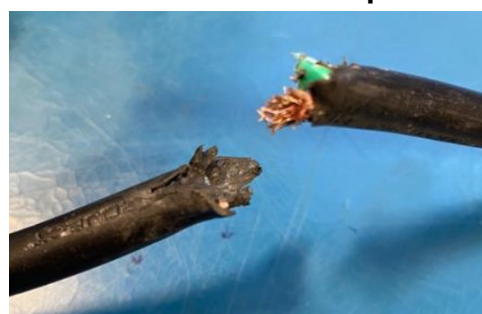
This report is presented to the Health and Safety Committee (HSC) to provide a general update including specific details on cable management regarding medical devices on beds, the development of safety culture training and continuing work to reduce the risk of harm associated with the use of super-absorbent polymer gel granules (SAPGG).

The report also provides assurance that actions have been completed following the review of ligature risks in the mental health assessment room at the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU), Prince Phillip Hospital. This was first highlighted during a Health Inspectorate Wales (HIW) visit in 2023.

Cefndir / Background

Cable Management (Medical Devices on Beds) - Electrocution Risk and/or Trip Hazard

In a recent incident a large electrical flash was noted from the underside of a bed next to a side rail. The incident tripped the electricity to an entire section of the ward and there were immediate concerns of electrical shock. The incident happened with the combination of a profiling bed and a hybrid mattress pump, where the power lead became trapped in the bed rail mechanism and was severed because of incorrect cable routing.



In a previous incident, also involving a profiling bed and a hybrid mattress pump, a member of staff sustained a fracture from a trip incident where the power cable had been incorrectly routed from a hybrid pump at the foot end of a bed to the wall socket at the head end along the floor around the outside of the bed.

Both of these incidents could have been prevented with appropriate cable management.

Safety Culture Training

Although various contributory factors were identified in the investigation into the fall from height incident that was reported to the Health and Safety Committee in September 2023, one of the two root causes identified was a poor safety culture. As a result, the Health and Safety Team have been working with management at the relevant department to identify ways to improve the safety culture within the department.

Super-Absorbent Polymer Gel Granules (SAPGG)

SAPGG (including sachets, mats and loose powder) are used to reduce spillage onto bedding, clothing and floors when patients use urine bottles or vomit bowls, or when staff move fluid-filled containers (for example washbowls, bedpans). The gel interacts with the liquid and solidifies it. In 2017, NHS Improvement issued a Patient Safety Alert warning of the asphyxiation risk associated with the use of these gel granules following the death of a patient who had ingested a sachet of SAPGG that had been left in a urine bottle in their room.

Since 2017, there have been a further 12 reported incidents of ingestion by patients; two patients died, and two patient's required emergency treatment. These involved SAPGG products left in their urine bottles or vomit bowls or left for nearby patients to use. These incident reports, and NHS purchasing patterns, suggest providers have been relying on local awareness raising rather than reviewing their overall approach to the use of these products.

As reported at the Health and Safety Committee in January 2024, as a result of incidents, new guidance reinforcing that SAPGG are only to be used for exceptional infection control purposes has been issued stating that any organisation still using these products must protect patients by introducing restrictions on their use. The Health and Safety (H&S) Team have previously highlighted the risk via Global E-mail and during Quality and Safety meetings and have taken steps in collaboration with Procurement colleagues to restrict the purchase of these products unless absolutely essential.

HIW MIU Ligature Assessment

HIW found that the room used for mental health purposes was not free of ligature risks both in the room itself and in an adjoining office space. They were also not assured that adequate arrangements were in place for the observation of patients.

Asesiad / Assessment

Local Safety Notice (LSN 01 2024) - Cable Management (Medical Devices on Beds) - Electrocutation Risk and/or Trip Hazard

As a result of the incident outlined in the background section, it was felt that a Local Safety Notice was required to bring these incidents to the attention of all ward areas throughout the Health Board. The notice can be found here: [Risk Level High Cable Management \(Medical Devices on Beds\) - Electrocutation Risk and/or Trip Hazard](#).

LSN 01 2024 was circulated on the Global E-mail on 16 January 2024 and has also been presented at all Governance / Quality and Safety Groups attended by the Health and Safety Team. Additionally printed copies were supplied to Clinical Engineering for distribution to the Wards.

The Notice provides guidance on the correct routing for cabling associated with any electrical medical devices hung on the foot end of a patient bed. Additionally, with particular reference to the hybrid mattresses, information is provided on updated versions of the mattress base covers that are now available which now have a cable retainer built in. This allows for the safe routing

of cables between the foot end and the head end of the bed, thus eliminating the risks posed by poor cable management.

Safety Culture Training

As noted in the background section, one of two root causes identified in the recent fall from height incident within the Health Board was a poor safety culture. Although there are a range of good health and safety training courses available within Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB), until now there has been no training available that specifically addresses safety culture.

As a result, the Health and Safety Manager has developed a brand-new course specifically looking at Safety Culture. This has been developed as a bespoke course for the Estates Department in the first instance. The new course has also formed part of the Health Board's evidence for the Learning from Events required by the Welsh Risk Pool following the resultant personal injury (PI) claim.

The new course covers:

- Poor safety culture – incidents / examples
- Incident data
- The DuPont Bradley Curve (a safety culture model)
- Signs of a poor culture
- How can we improve? (Including the importance of leadership, effective communication, praising and challenging, and managing worker's health)
- Measuring safety culture
- Benefits of improving safety culture

Five sessions have been scheduled in February to deliver the session to all leaders/managers within the Estates Department from Director through to Team Leaders/Supervisors from all four localities across the Health Board.

Super-Absorbent Polymer Gel Granules (SAPGG)

Where "exceptional use" of SAPGG products is still required, the risk can be reduced with suitable controls. The Health and Safety Team have now developed a comprehensive risk assessment template specifically for the exceptional use of SAPGG within HDdUHB. The template can be found here: [SAPGG---Risk-Assessment-Proforma--v2-.docx \(sharepoint.com\)](#) and allows current controls to be documented, and remedial actions to further reduce risk to be identified (and documented when they have been completed).

If these products are no longer needed by a ward/department, the products, and therefore the risk, can be eliminated.

There should be no further use of these products without a documented risk assessment in place. This message has been sent directly to all Directors of Nursing and Heads of Nursing throughout the Health Board for dissemination and action. The message has been reinforced through all relevant Governance / Quality and Safety Groups and initial response has been very reassuring.

A new section on SAPGG, including a link to the risk assessment template, has also been added to the Health, Safety and Security Department intranet site.

MIU Ligature Assessment

Point of ligature (PoL) assessment was completed in September 2023 by Health and Safety Adviser with MIU Senior Clinical staff present. Remedial actions were undertaken including the removal of potential ligatures (electrical cables).

Work/actions that have been completed:

- Improved observation has been achieved by the removal of a door and ligature point removed by the loss of door closure.
- Removal of table - this removes the option for easily accessing the suspended ceiling.

MHLD response to HSC's request for Ligature Assessment Assurance

The committee request is one we have been actively exploring as a directorate as recognise a gap in being able to provide assurance at a glance or highlight exceptions regarding all stages of the PoL assessment and actions process.

The MHLD Directorate holds a vast amount of detailed information on assessments and actions generated by them however MHLD would benefit from a dashboard style report to evidence progress/exceptions, including the capital estates planning/bids, procurement and implementation stages which are less clear at present.

We have explored the potential use of AMaT to generate a method for tracking individual actions however feel this could be cumbersome and are instead looking to develop a project management style report that reports on compliance with the various stages in the full PoL process. This can be scheduled to be presented to the Health and Safety Committee at a future date.

Trade Union Health and Safety Group

At the February 2024 meeting Local Safety Notice (LSN 01 2024) as above was discussed and concerns were raised over the lack of Electrical Safety Training in HDdUHB. Courses have been developed in the past and delivered in small cohorts, however nothing has progressed further. The Trade Union Representatives asked for this to be escalated to the Health and Safety Committee.

The Health and Safety Manager has been in discussions with the Head of Clinical Engineering to see what arrangements can be made to introduce electrical safety training into either existing training or the potential need for adding to the mandatory training portfolio.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Health & Safety Committee is asked to:

TAKE ASSURANCE

- That suitable steps to manage cable management risks associated with medical devices on beds are being taken.
- That work is being undertaken to develop and deliver safety culture training where required.
- That more robust management of Superabsorbent polymer gel granules usage is being implemented via the new risk assessment process.

Committee ToR Reference: Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor:	2.1 Provide assurance around the UHB arrangements for ensuring the health, safety, welfare and security of all employees and of those who may be affected by work-related activities, such as patients, members of the public, volunteers, contractors etc.
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	N/A
Galluogwyr Ansawdd: Enablers of Quality: Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	6. All Apply
Parthau Ansawdd: Domains of Quality Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	2.1 Managing Risk and Promoting Health and Safety
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	1. Putting people at the heart of everything we do 4. The best health and wellbeing for our individuals, families and communities 5. Safe sustainable, accessible and kind care 6. Sustainable use of resources
Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	2a Staff health and wellbeing
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2021-2022	2. Develop a skilled and flexible workforce to meet the changing needs of the modern NHS 4. Improve Population Health through prevention and early intervention, supporting people to live happy and healthy lives

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Contained within the body of the report.
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	Contained within the body of the report.
Partion / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Ansawdd Iechyd a Diogelwch: Parties / Committees consulted prior to Health and Safety Committee:	Health and Safety Advisory Group Governance / Quality & Safety Groups Trade Union Health & Safety Group

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau)

Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	Not applicable.
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	There is a positive impact on staff and patient safety, health and wellbeing through compliance with health and safety regulations.
Gweithlu: Workforce:	Potential for adverse future staffing impacts if this legislation is not complied with as it relates to employee safety.
Risg: Risk:	Risk to health and safety management
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	Potential for enforcement action including Improvement Notices/Prosecutions and claims due to breaches in legislation.
Enw Da: Reputational:	Potential for enforcement action including Improvement Notices/Prosecutions and claims due to breaches in legislation.
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	N/A
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	<p>No evidence gathered to indicate a negative impact on any protected group/s.</p> <p>Evidence gathered indicates a positive impact on the protected characteristics of human rights and pregnancy / maternity by providing a safer workplace.</p>