

PWYLLGOR IECHYD A DIOGELWCH HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	07 May 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 assurance to the Committee on the Asbestos and Reinforced Aerated Autoclaved Concrete (RAAC) inspection conducted by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in March 2024.

This report also includes items escalated from the Trade Union Health and Safety Group held on 15 April 2024 including electrical safety.

Cefndir / Background

Health and Safety Executive Inspection

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is undertaking an inspection programme in schools and NHS Hospitals to assess how organisations are managing the risks from asbestos within their estate and meeting the 'Duty to Manage' requirements under Regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. During these inspections the HSE are also assessing, where relevant, how these organisations are managing the risks from Reinforced Autoclave Aerated Concrete (RAAC).

The Health Board were informed that an Inspector would be attending Withybush General Hospital (WGH) on 26 March 2024 and Bronglais General Hospital (BGH) on 27 March to review their asbestos management arrangements and RAAC compliance.

Electrical Safety

As reported at the March 2024 Committee, a Local Safety Notice (LSN 01 2024) was issued in January 2024 by the Health, Safety and Security Department. The LSN addresses cable management risks associated with medical devices on beds following a small number of preventable incidents. The notice has been brought to the attention of all ward areas throughout the Health Board and 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. For reference, the notice can be found here: [Risk Level High Cable Management \(Medical Devices on Beds\) - Electrocutation Risk and/or Trip Hazard.](#)

The Notice provided 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.

Asesiad / Assessment

Health and Safety Executive Inspection

The Head of Health, Safety and Security was contacted by a HSE Inspector on 14 March 2024 requesting to visit the Health Board to review asbestos management and RAAC compliance. The inspections were undertaken on 26th March in Worthybush General Hospital (WGH) and 27 March in Bronglais Hospital (BGH).

The Inspector requested documentation to be submitted by 19 March 2024. Documentation provided included the Health Board's Asbestos Management Plan, Policies and procedures. Regarding RAAC he requested evidence of the Health Board's RAAC governance arrangements, schedules of works, examples of surveys undertaken etc.

The formal letter/report is still awaited from the HSE, however the verbal feedback provided on the day was extremely positive. The Inspector was satisfied there were no material breaches of Health and Safety Regulations regarding asbestos compliance and was complimentary in the approach the Health Board has taken in managing the risks associated with RAAC.

Electrical Safety Training

In addition to the Local Safety Notice the Health, Safety and Security Team have been liaising with Learning and Development and Subject Matter Experts within the Health Board to look at introducing an Electrical Safety Awareness training course to the mandatory training portfolio.

Electrical Safety Awareness training is designed to ensure that all staff understand the main risks and the necessary controls for the safe use of electricity in the workplace. Wherever people are working there are risks to the users of electrical equipment that must be considered.

This course will help staff understand the importance of inspecting and maintaining electrical equipment, understand controls that can be used to help make working with electricity safer and understand best practices when working with electricity, both in the workplace and at home.

A Request to Mandate Training application was submitted by the Health and Safety Manager on 8 April 2024. This was followed by a meeting on 12 April between the Health and Safety, Learning and Development and three Subject Matter Experts from Clinical Engineering, Estates Maintenance and Estates Operational Compliance.

It has been agreed in principle that the Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB) Electrical Safety Awareness e-learning module ([000 NHS Wales - Electrical Safety](#)) will become a mandatory module in HDdUHB, however this will need final ratification by the Workforce and Organisational Development Leadership Business Group which next meets in May 2024.

The Health and Safety Team along with the Subject Matter Experts will actively encourage the voluntary completion of the training module whilst awaiting the ratification of the course.

Local Safety Notice (LSN 01 2024) Compliance

A series of unannounced audits have been conducted across the Health Board to check cable management compliance associated with hybrid/dynamic/pressure mattresses in line with Local Safety Notice (LSN 01 2024). A list of wards/departments that use these mattress types was obtained from the Clinical Engineering Department, and the top user on each site was selected to receive an unannounced audit. A summary of the findings from each audit can be found on the table below:

Site	Ward	Date	No. In Use	Compliant	%
GGH	Teifi Ward	09/04/2024	26	16	62%
PPH	AMAU*	15/04/2024	10	0	0%
WGH	Puffin Ward	15/04/2024	13	10	77%
BGH	Ceredig Ward	16/04/2024	12	8	67%

* AMAU – Acute Medical Admissions Unit

Each ward/department has been written to following these audits and asked to take immediate action to correct the cable management on all the beds found to be non-compliant.

Wards/departments have been reminded that there are only 2 ways that are acceptable as compliant:

- i. Cable inside the cable retainer on the mattress cover.
- ii. Along the floor within the footprint of the bed, i.e., between the wheel sets, if the particular mattress does not yet have a cable retainer.

Regarding the concerning compliance in the Acute Medical Admissions Unit (AMAU) in Prince Philip Hospital (PPH). Through these audits it was identified that the Clinical Engineering Department had not yet started their mattress cover replacement programme in PPH, and that the message about the correct routing of cables had not filtered through to the staff on the Unit, hence the 0% compliance (Note: recent changes to the Unit management team may also have been a contributory factor).

Following the audit, the Clinical Engineering Department has diverted resources to be able to undertake the mattress cover replacement programme for PPH. The timescale for the completion of AMAU PPH will be end of April 2024.

Positive actions have been taken at all four sites following the audits and not just within the wards/departments audited. Engagement and reinforcement of the messages has improved throughout the hospitals as a result.

The checking of mattress cable management has been added to the audit checklist of the Health and Safety Department's audit programme, other known users of hybrid/dynamic/pressure mattresses have been prioritised on the audit schedule for 2024.

Items Escalated from the Trade Union Health and Safety Group – 15 April 2024

At the April 2024 meeting 'Trade Union Health and Safety Group' two issues were raised by Trade Union representatives (TU Reps) for escalation to the Health and Safety Committee.

Rats and the risk of Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease)

Persistent issues with rats were noted at all four acute sites. It was acknowledged that the pest control contracts had been extended to provide further services, however the TU Reps felt that more could be done in tackling the issue.

- The H&S Team have liaised with the Estates Department and Environment Team to raise these concerns.
- The Facilities Directorate have (since January 2024) commissioned Rentokil to undertake increased site visits to their normal contracted hours. This has resulted in increased traps being used. In addition, several environmental improvements have been introduced regarding replacement of rain covers, clearing vegetation and general improvements to site waste compounds.
- The situation continues to be monitored and actioned as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Diff-X.

Concerns were raised over the move from Tristel to Diff-X as the main cleaning agent used in HDdUHB, regarding respiratory safety concerns experienced by Facilities staff.

- It should be noted that Diff-X is widely used in healthcare in Wales and has been certified for this use. It is both user-friendly and environmentally less harmful than chlorine. It is fast acting, and eliminates all surface contamination including Clostridium Difficile spores, MRSA, bacteria.
- The COSHH specialist in the Health and Safety Team has been working closely with the Facilities Team in the development of the COSHH assessments including training awareness when mixing the product.
- Further work has commenced to identify respiratory symptom causation and relay safe use procedures to all users of Diff-X.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Health & Safety Committee is asked to:

- **TAKE ASSURANCE** that the inspections undertaken by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) regarding RAAC and asbestos has gone well (full HSE report awaited - findings to be presented at the next meeting)
- **TAKE ASSURANCE** that suitable steps to manage cable management risks associated with medical devices on beds are being taken, including Electrical Safety Awareness training and continued electrical safety audits.
- **TAKE ASSURANCE** that steps are being taken to resolve issues raised by the Trade Union Representatives.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)

Objectives: (must be completed)

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:	6. All Apply

Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	
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>