

01/07 Portable overhead hoist

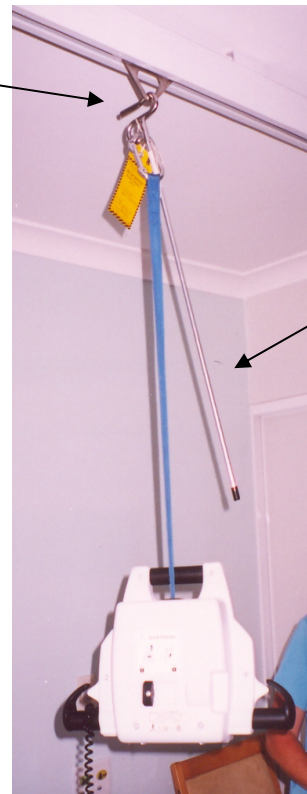
Incident

Following an incident involving the death of a resident at an aged care facility, WorkSafe has become aware that some portable overhead patient hoist systems are provided with an arm extension for the purpose of attaching the hoist to a sliding trolley on a ceiling mounted track. There is a risk of hook displacement during operation while a person is being suspended.

Factors to consider

- Patient hoists are used to suspend persons;
- Some portable overhead patient hoist arm extensions are supplied with an open hook;
- A lateral or rotational force on the arm extension during operation may displace the hook from the trolley.

Open hook connection with no safety catch



Arm extension

Recommendations

1. Open hooks used to attach an overhead patient hoist to the trolley should be provided with a safety catch.
2. Hooks used as a means of suspension on any other patient hoist must be designed to minimise the risk of displacement.
3. Any adverse event or problem associated with a medical device such as a patient hoist should be reported to both the equipment supplier and the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).
4. Designers, manufacturers, importers, suppliers etc. of portable overhead patient hoists must comply with the relevant requirements given in AS1418.2 - 1997 (serial hoists and winches)

Further information

- AS 3581-1988: Mechanical aids for patient lifting and moving- safety requirements
- AS ISO 10535-2002: Hoists for the transfer of disabled persons - Requirements and test methods.
- Therapeutic Goods Administration - 1800 809 361 or email: iris@health.gov.au
- WorkSafe's internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au or customer service on 1300 307 877 or email safety@docep.wa.gov.au

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