

GUIDANCE

Subject	Bed Rails Guidance CG003
Applicable to	All Care Staff
Date issued	December 2023
Next review date	December 2024
Lead responsible	Director of Care
Guidance written by	Governance Lead
Authorised by	Senior Leadership Team
CQC Standard	Safe
Links to Policies/Procedures	Reporting Incidents and Accidents Policy OP002
Summary	The Hospice does not place bedrails within a patients home and therefore is not responsible for assessing, risk assessing or maintaining bed rails. This document provides staff with guidance on what to do if they have any concerns for patient safety.
Target Audience	All Care Staff

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Staff should refer to the Hospice website or Policies and Procedures folder on the 'N' drive for the most up to date Policy. If the review date of this document has expired it is still valid for 3 months. After that staff should seek advice from their clinical lead or manager.

<p>1.</p>	<p>Introduction</p> <p>From 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2022, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) received 18 reports of deaths related to bed rails and associated equipment, and 54 reports of serious injuries. Most incidents occurred in community care settings, particularly in nursing homes or the patient's own home</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Use of Bed Rails</p> <p>Bed rails are generally used to prevent or reduce the risk of patients falling and sustaining injury.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Risks</p> <p>Bed rails are not designed or intended to limit the freedom of people by preventing them from intentionally leaving their beds.</p> <p>Improper use of bed rails can increase the risk of falling. In some cases, the patient may attempt to climb over the bed rail, leading to the potential to fall from a height.</p> <p>They are not intended to restrain people whose condition disposes them to erratic, repetitive or violent movement. Erratic, repetitive or violent movements may also cause the bed rails to break, leading to an increased risk of falling or injury from the broken rail.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Nottinghamshire Hospice Guidance for Staff</p> <p>The Hospice does not place bedrails within a patients home and therefore is not responsible for assessing, risk assessing or maintaining bed rails.</p> <p>However, a risk assessment is required when caring for a patient in their own home. If a patient's needs have changed and there are safety concerns a community nurse should be contacted immediately.</p>

In some cases families may purchase bedrails for their loved one. The Hospice does not have any responsibility for these but can advise families of risks.

Staff should be aware of risks that bedrails can pose and raise any concerns with their line manager.

Any incidents or accidents related to bedrails should be logged via Vantage Incident module.