Entrapment Risk Mitigation

Contraindications and Appropriate Use of Patient Assist Devices

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Joerns Healthcare believes that the role of the clinician in any care plan or individual patient intervention is critical and should be considered the most relevant option in defining the care practices. As such, the determination of entrapment risks and assistive device protocols should be patient-specific and driven by the clinician in conjunction with physician's orders, when present.

Bed systems are a critical element and warrant careful consideration to ensure optimum selection and placement is achieved for each patient. Proper bed systems can offer improved quality of care for patients, enhanced quality of life for staff, and aid in compliance with regulatory requirements.

The bed system is comprised of a bed frame and a surface, or mattress, that fits well with the frame and other related accessories. When acquiring or updating bed equipment, it is important to consider the total bed system instead of each piece as an unrelated component. An initial and major safety issue to consider is entrapment risk based on statistics collected by the FDA.

Joerns Healthcare as a member of the Hospital Bed Safety Workgroup (HBSW) helped publish guidance entitled "Hospital Bed System Dimensional and Assessment Guidance to reduce entrapment."

The specifics for these best practice guidelines were developed from a review of the incident responses received and pertain to dimensional and clinical criteria. The risk of entrapment increases with large gaps or openings in the bed system that could entrap a patient's neck, head, or chest. Gaps can be caused by mattresses that are not the correct recommended size, loose side rails, or design elements such as wide spaces between the openings in the rails. The FDA has defined 7 potential entrapment zones and has provided testing guidelines for zones 1 through 4 which constitutes 87% of recorded entrapment incidents. The FDA Bed Entrapment Guidelines provide information on testing tools along with detailed instructions for use.

Since the development of the Bed entrapment guidelines CMS has created F-Tags 700 and 909 pertaining to the use of bedrails and regular inspection of the bed system. These updates have utilized the guidance set forth by the HBSW but added that when a rail is in use on a bed, this must be specified to that patient and documented accordingly. This means that for each admission documentation is required for bed rail use and bed systems should be checked frequently for entrapment compliance.

Joerns Healthcare in compliance with both HBSW and CMS has designed their bed systems to be compliant with F-Tag 909 requirements. Our deluxe assist handles featured with Joerns bed systems not only meet entrapment compliance but can be easily removed when dictated by an individualized care plan, in compliance with F-Tag 700.

As an integrated manufacturer of complete bed systems, Joerns Healthcare has a distinct advantage in our ability to guarantee compliance with the dimensional criteria noted in the FDA entrapment guidelines. At Joerns, our bed system components are tested together to ensure designed capability meets dimensional criteria.

There are many additional benefits to be achieved from proper bed system placement in addition to mitigating risks associated with possible resident entrapment. These include fall prevention, skin integrity maintenance, wound care treatment, caregiver injury prevention and overall, the comfort of the patient.

Regards,

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*Please note, the above are GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS and are not designed nor intended to supersede the Clinician's best judgement. Joerns Healthcare proudly stands behind the clinical application of our products; However, we resolutely support the Clinician's position as the key to optimized wound prevention and management.