

Information for Equipment Users, Relatives and Carers

Safe Use of Bed Equipment in the Community

This leaflet has been produced for people who are being issued with bed rails, bed grab handles or levers.

A risk assessment has been carried out by your Health and Social Care professional to assess if using this equipment would be of benefit to you.

Maintenance and Safety Checks

On delivery of the equipment by BACES, you will be provided with a copy of the manufacturer's instructions, and you will be shown how to use the equipment.

We advise you to carry out safety checks on a regular basis which should include the following:

- Check all parts of the equipment to ensure its in safe working order.
- Check for defects, for example:
 - Rusting or cracks in the metal frame or joints
 - Flaking paintwork or plating
 - Missing locking handles and fixing clamps
 - Loose fixings and joints
 - Worn threads on clamps.
 - Bent or distorted features
 - Torn or damaged padding

If you discover any damage, defects or problems operating the equipment then you must report this immediately to Bradford and Airedale Community Equipment Store (BACES) on 01274 435260.

Cleaning

All parts of the equipment can be cleaned with a mild detergent using a cloth. Avoid letting water run inside the tubes via the holes. If padding is used on the bed rails, this should be wiped clean using a mild detergent, or follow the manufacturer's instructions. If the equipment is removed or moved to clean, please ensure it is placed back where it had been installed. If unsure, follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Use of the Bed Rails or Bed Grab Handle/Lever

It is important you and your carer(s) monitor the use of the equipment and report any changes, such as, but not limited to:

- Changes of the person physically, cognitively, or behaviour wise who uses the equipment which could impact on the equipment being used safely.

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- If the bed the equipment is fitted to, is changed, or replaced.
- If the mattress is replaced
- If an additional mattress is placed on top of the existing mattress
- If the equipment moves out of position, resulting in a gap appearing between the bed rail or grab handle or bed lever and the side of the mattress.
- If there are concerns about any other gaps that could present as an entrapment risk.
- Any changes in the physical condition of the equipment.
- Difficulty in using or securing the equipment.
- Alterations or additional adaptations to the equipment.

Please be advised that bed rails cannot be used as a form of restraint as it is unlawful to restrain someone without their consent or on the instruction of a third party.

If a person is agitated, it may be considered, with their own safety in mind, to care for them on a mattress on the floor. If this is the case, a discussion between all relevant parties will take place.

If a floor/low bed is issued the side rail must not be used when the person is alone, and the bed must be left at its lowest height with fallout mats in place.

If bed grab handles and bed levers are removed from the bed for whatever reason such as cleaning or remaking a bed, they need to be re-fitted as per the manufacturer's instructions.

For any additional information, guidance, further reading, for the most up to date information, can be found at [National Patient Safety Alert: Medical beds, trolleys, bed rails, bed grab handles and lateral turning devices: risk of death from entrapment or falls \(NatPSA/2023/010/MHRA\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Reporting concerns or obtaining assistance - Please report all accidents, incidents, and concerns to the following:

Telephone Number	01274 435400
Organisation	Independence Advice Hub City of Bradford District Council Britannia House, Broadway, Bradford BD1 1HX