

 <p>Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte Health Service Executive</p>	<h1>SAFETY ALERT</h1>		
<b>Ref: SA:004:00</b>	<b>RE: - Safe Use of Patient Hoist and Sling</b>		
<b>Issue date:</b>	May 2015	<b>Review date:</b>	May 2017
<b>Author(s):</b>	National Health & Safety Function - Training Team		
<h2>S</h2>	<p><b>SITUATION:</b></p> <p>The arrangements for the servicing of patient hoists and associated equipment must comply with The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007, which requires a thorough examination of patient hoists be undertaken every six months by a competent person in accordance with Section 30, Schedule 1 Part B. This should include a thorough examination of slings and any other equipment used in the lifting of service users. A written record must be obtained and held on the premises and available for inspection when requested.</p>		
<h2>B</h2>	<p><b>BACKGROUND:</b></p> <p>An incident occurred in which a service user fell from a hoist to the floor while being transferred from their bed to a chair.</p>		
<h2>A</h2>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT:</b></p> <p>Following a thorough investigation it was concluded that the most probable cause of the incident was that the sling loop was not appropriately secured to the correct position of the hoist sling bar, prior to operating the hoist.</p>		
<h2>R</h2>	<p><b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All staff involved in patient moving and handling activities must have attended People Moving and Handling training. This training must be documented and updated every two years or more frequently if relevant information becomes available or circumstances change</li> <li>2. All staff involved in patient moving and handling activities must be appropriately instructed by a competent person in the safe use of the specific hoist and slings currently in use at their work location. This must include the safe attachment of the sling to the hoist</li> <li>3. All staff involved in patient moving and handling activities must be familiar with the requirements for the safe moving and handling of the service user as specified in their respective moving and handling assessment plan prior to any patient moving and handling activity</li> <li>4. When attaching a sling with loop attachments to the hoist, the operator(s)</li> </ol>		

must ensure that:

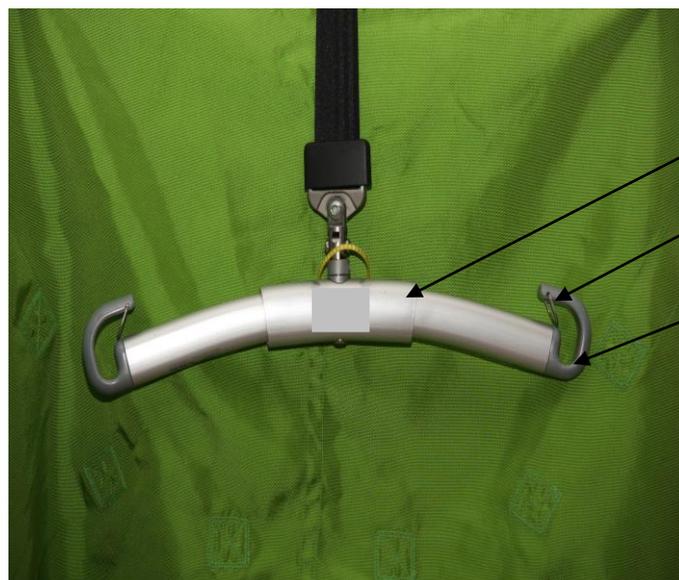
- i. The sling loop is used to attach the sling to the hoist sling bar (Please refer to Fig.1)
- ii. The sling loop is placed into the appropriate sling hook and secured by the safety latch (See Fig 2). The operator(s) must visually and physically check and confirm that the sling is appropriately secured to the hoist prior to commencing the lift (Please refer to Fig 3)

**Fig.1 – Sling with loop attachments**



Sling Loop

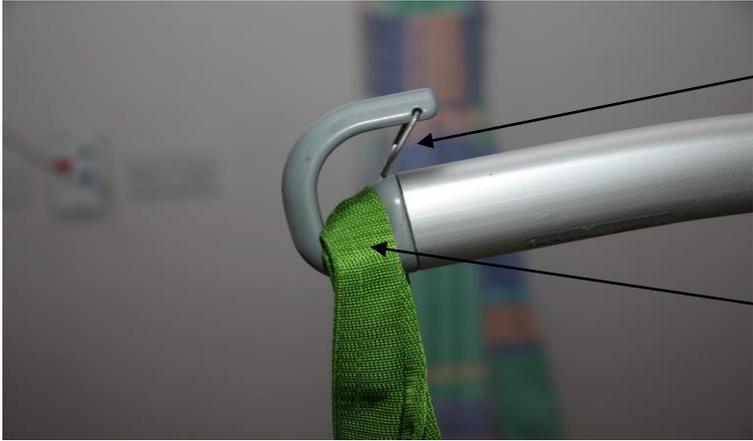
**Fig.2 – Hoist Sling Bar**



Sling Bar

Safety Latch

Sling Hook

	<p><b>Fig.3 - Sling loops secured in sling hook with safety latch in place</b></p>  <p>Safety Latch secured in position</p> <p>Sling loops placed in sling hook</p>
	<p><b>Distribution:</b></p> <p>Each Member of the Directorate and National Director HSE          Each Chief Officer, HSE          Each Assistant National Director, HR          Each Employee Relations Manager, HR, HSE          Each Hospital Group CEO          Divisional and Corporate Management Teams          Senior Managers          Service Managers /Designated Local Managers  <b>Please ensure that this Safety Alert is brought to the attention of all relevant persons in the workplace.</b></p>
<p><b>Acknowledgments:</b></p>	<p>Julie Keegan, Health &amp; Safety Advisor, National Health &amp; Safety Function Training Team.</p>