

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HOSPITAL BED SAFETY AND ENTRAPMENT GUIDELINES

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Incidences of injury and death from entrapment between the bedframe and the mattress can be minimized if acceptable tolerances for mattress/frame gaps are known. This presentation will introduce the listener to the proposed FDA Guidelines for gap measurement and corrective actions in prescribing or using hospital bed frames and support surfaces.

This presentation will introduce the listener to these Guidelines before capital outlay for mattresses and bedframes are made. Deaths result from patient entrapment between the mattress and the siderails or between the mattress and the head or foot board of bedframes. The Hospital Bed Safety Workgroup, comprised of representatives from manufacturing, direct care, and regulatory agencies, drafted Dimensional and Assessment Guidelines and Corrective Actions to guide the prescriber in minimum or maximum gaps between the mattress and the bedframe at critical points to help to decrease the likelihood of entrapment causing injury or death. These Guidelines will help you evaluate how safe your mattress/frame combination is for patients, and what mattress features to look for in minimizing risk of entrapment. While these Guidelines are only *recommendations*, many countries are waiting for final publication of these before publishing their own *regulations*.

7 Zones of Entrapment, and the likelihood of entrapment in each zone

Minimum or maximum dimensional limitations in each zone

How to measure the dimensional limitations

How to assess the corrective action taken

Where to go on the Internet for more information and complete documents

Speaker

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