

Bed Safety Rail Risk Assessment

Risk assessments must be carried out before ordering rails and then reviewed regularly with further risk assessment completed after any change in bed equipment or the bed occupant's condition.

Standard issues CES rails have 4 bars; height from base bar 21½"

When should rails be issued?

- Bed safety rails should only be prescribed where there is a risk of the bed occupant falling out of bed, when providing bed safety rails is considered to be the safest way forward.
- Bed safety rails should not be prescribed where the bed occupant is likely to climb over them to get out. This would be seen as restraint as well as increase risk of injury. See below for other possible solutions.
- Other measures to reduce risk of falling from the bed include;
 - Lowering bed height, if bed is adjustable or raised on blocks. Beds should always be left at lowest setting to reduce risk of injury from falls.
 - Putting a crash mat on the floor next to the bed.(consider trip hazard)
 - Sleeping on a mattress on the floor instead of the bed.(consider bed transfers)
 - Using telecare peripherals such as bed occupancy sensor or movement sensor to alert carers when the person gets out of bed.

Potential Risks of the Bed Safety Rails:

- Entrapment; Rails supplied by CES will meet the MHRA guidelines: Gap width between rails and between rail and base of bed, less than 120mm, Rail end and headboard/footboard less than 60 mm or more than 250 mm.

Be aware, that if mattress is 'squashy' there is a potentially a gap between surface and bottom rail. If this creates risk of entrapment then further control measures must be put in place. Consider Bumpers or Soft Sides.

- Where a bed occupant has uncontrolled or unpredictable movement risk of entrapment may be reduced by the use of bumpers or soft sides.
- Where the bed occupant is on a lightweight mattress, such as an airwave or on a soft based divan bed, the bedrail must be attached to the bed, to keep rail in place. Make this clear on CES order.
- If bed is profiling the rails designed for that make and model must be used. Consider entrapment issues with moving parts and mattress consistency. Also consider gaps; when bed is profiling and rail is static.
- It is important to make sure that the height of the bed safety rail is sufficient when an extra mattress or topper is used. Where the extra depth mattress is in place then the order for the bed safety rail must reflect the extra height needed. 220mm minimum, mattress top to height of bed rail.

Bed Safety Rail Risk Assessment Checklist

Client Name:

CF6 No:

1.	Is the person likely to fall from bed?	Yes	Go to next Q.
		No	Rail may not be appropriate
2.	Could the bed safety rail increase the risk? e.g disorientated service users might climb over the bed rail.	Yes	Rail not appropriate
		No	Go to next Q.
3.	Are bed safety rails the appropriate solution?	Yes	Go to next Q.
		No	Use other equip. See advice notes
4.	Is mattress sufficiently heavy to hold down a bedrail? E.g. Airwave mattresses are not heavy enough to hold bedrails in place, If bed is divan style, soft base will not hold rails in place.	Yes	Go to next Q.
		No	Use bed safety rail that is attached to bed
5.	Is client using a profiling bed?	Yes	Profiling bed rails of same make and model needed
		No	Go to next Q.
6.	Will clinical or physical condition increase the risk of entrapment or other injury? E.g Size of person, Confusion, dementia, communication problems, C.P., repetitive/involuntary movement. If so would a bumper reduce the risk of either injury or entrapment?	Yes	Consider using bumper
		No	Go to next Q.
		Yes	Order bumper
		No	Go to next Q.
7.	Are gaps small enough to avoid an entrapment risk to the bed occupant? Is their body or head large enough not to pass: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Between bars of the bed safety rail? ▪ Through any gap between rail and side of mattress? ▪ Through the gap between the lower bed safety rail bar and the top of the mattress, allowing for compression of mattress at its edge? ▪ Between Headboard or footboard and bed safety rail. 	Yes	Yes = rails can be ordered No= control measures required; Eg: soft sides, Bumpers, change mattress, low bed, different bed?
		No	
		Yes	
		No	
		Yes	
		No	
		Yes	
		No	
8.	Does height of bedrail need adjusting to take into account extra mattress or topper?	Yes	Write requirements on order form
		No	Order standard rail
		No	

Comments/ recommendations:

Prescriber Name

Date