

Amanda James



Biography

Amanda has worked as a health and safety advisor in the NHS within surgical and mental health settings. Amanda joined HSE as an inspector in 1998 and has extensive experience of inspecting NHS, LA and private health and social care providers. She joined HSE's Health and Social Care Sector in January 2008 and leads on MSD's for the Sector.

What to Expect After a Patient Handling Accident

Abstract

During the five year period 2002-2007, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and local authorities received reports of approximately 150 patient falls arising from hoisting activities in the health and social care sector. The majority of such incidents result in major injuries, some of which are fatal.

The journey through the aftermath of serious incidents, the resulting investigations, and legal processes can be challenging for all involved, including the moving and handling professional.

Many large organisations have serious incident policies detailing organisational roles, responsibilities and internal processes to be put in place following incidents, yet they reveal very little about external factors and dealing with regulators, beyond the initial notification of the incident.

Questions which moving and handling professionals may suddenly be faced with immediately following a serious incident include:

- What happens when HSE decides to investigate serious injuries and fatalities?
- What is the health and safety inspector looking for and what involvement might the police and other regulators have in the investigation?
- What are the investigative and legal processes?
- How might the investigation affect me and my colleagues?
- How do serious incidents shape future practice?

This session aims to give delegates an understanding of what it's really like and what might be expected of them should a serious patient handling accident occur; from first report of the incident to the conclusion of the investigation and potential enforcement action.

The session will include information on HSE's investigation and enforcement policy and processes, the legal framework, legal processes and new developments such as the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act.

During the session I will draw upon my knowledge and experience of patient handling accident investigations and my past interactions with all parties involved including duty holders, witnesses, bereaved relatives, moving and handling professionals, the police, courts and other regulators to give as full a picture as I can of the role of, and impact on, the organisation and those individuals involved.