

Foundations of Practice and Beyond

Monday

Stream F

Session 2 1445

Session 3 1615



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Sling Hazards and Risk Prevention.

Abstract

Slings have been around for years! Although they have improved the safety and ease of transfers, they have not always proved as successful or safe as we might have wanted, sometimes with catastrophic consequences. The tragedy is that most incidents could probably have been avoided.

This session explores the causes of incidents involving slings that have occurred over recent years. We will examine available data and analysis it for trends and causes. The objectives are to see what we should be learning from past incidents and what we could be doing to avoid repeating those incidents in the future.

Using MHRA Medical Device Alerts and HSE Reports together with anecdotes from professionals and our own experiences we will identify the potential hazards with using slings and then explore what can be done to mitigate these.

The session is intended to be useful to people with the following interests:

- Risk assessment of hoisting tasks as part of a care management plan
- Risk assessment of sling suitability to an individual or a group of users
- Training of people who assess for slings
- Training of people who use slings
- Investigating how incidents have occurred
- Examination of slings for safe working condition (Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations)
- When disposable slings can be reused and when they should be disposed of.

Practical demonstrations will be included to see exactly how incidents might occur and to gain a first hand understanding of the issues involved.

Following on from this, time permitting, the session will include a feedback forum on BS EN 10535 2006. This British and European Standard provides guidance to manufacturers with regard to designing, manufacturing and testing hoists and slings ready for CE marking as Class 1 Medical Devices. Richard has a seat on the European Committee that is responsible for writing and editing the Standard and will invite delegates to discuss what clauses should possibly be included in the next edition. This is a rare opportunity to have your say on what manufacturers should be doing to make safer and better products.

Certificates will be provided