



News From Kendal Outreach

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PATIENTS ARE SAFER IN BED THANKS TO NEWLY RELEASED FDA GUIDELINES **Kendal is Leading Contributor to Seven-Year Study**

(Kennett Square, PA) Since 1985, over 400 persons have died, 120 have been injured and another 158 narrowly escaped death or injury through entrapment in hospital beds used in a variety of patient care settings, including hospitals, long-term care facilities or in the family home. The FDA's just released Guidelines entitled, *Hospital Bed System Dimensional and Assessment Guidance to Reduce Entrapment,* available on line at www.fda.gov/cdrh/beds, represents a major step forward in significantly reducing, if not eliminating, such incidents. The newly released Guidelines are the result of a seven-year study by member organizations including Kendal Outreach, LLC, AARP, American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA), and the American Health Care Association (AHCA). This partnership between advocacy, provider, manufacturers and government agencies, known as the Hospital Bed Safety Workgroup (HBSW), studied causes and potential causes of entrapment from which recommendations and design improvements (in bed frames, mattresses, head and foot boards, and bed rails) could be made. "This reflects Kendal's advocacy role and its ongoing effort to collaborate with like-minded organizations and associations, in both the private and governmental arenas, to improve quality of life for older people," said Beryl Goldman, Director for Kendal Outreach, LLC. "We are so pleased that we have reached this point and have been able to impart this shared knowledge and expertise with providers and consumers."

Entrapment can occur when part of a patient's body becomes caught between parts of the bed, such as in the space between the mattress and the side rail. Most vulnerable are a patient's head, neck and chest which, if entrapped, can cause strangulation and death. On a hospital bed itself, the HBSW identified seven "zones" where entrapment most often occurs including within side rail framework and

between the head or foot board and mattress end. Elderly patients and those with cognitive or behavioral impairments are most at risk. “This guidance will assist individuals, families and health care facilities in making better informed decisions to ensure a safe sleeping environment for people who need these beds,” said Larry Kessler, Sc.D., Director, Office of Science and Engineering Laboratories, FDA’s Center for Devices and Radiological Health.

In addition to the new Guidelines, a measurement instrument has been developed called the “Cone and Cylinder Tool.” This device allows for measuring of those problem areas (or entrapment zones) to determine the extent to which they may pose a potential hazard. According to Neil Beresin, regional director for the Pennsylvania Restraint Reduction Initiative (PARRI) and the primary person to test the tool and demonstrate it broadly during conferences, “The tool will enable providers to strengthen their risk management process as well as give them a greater level of confidence in addressing resident safety.” This tool can be ordered through National Safety Technologies (NST).

Serving as outreach leader for the HBSW, Kendal Outreach staff will sponsor several presentations on Guidelines and demonstrations of tools - March 22 at Salemtowne (Winston-Salem, NC), March 23 at Southminster (Charlotte, NC), and May 17 Asbury Methodist Village (Gaithersburg, MD). Kendal Outreach is also sponsoring a series of teleconferences for the months of March and April on bed safety and this important new FDA approved initiative. “For virtually all of Kendal’s thirty-five year history, there has been a passion for improving the lives of older people regardless of where and by whom they are served. We hope to make a similarly significant contribution through education and assistance to improve bed safety,” says John A. Diffey, President, The Kendal Corporation and Kendal Outreach, LLC.

More information on presentations and teleconferences can be obtained by contacting Mary Scharf, 610-388-5580. Readers may register for these events on line at www.kendaloutreach.org. Information about all Kendal communities and services can be found on line at www.kendal.org or by calling, toll free (800) 220-0042.

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