

Clinical Alert No 3: Ligature risk: Movabl...

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CLINICAL ALERT

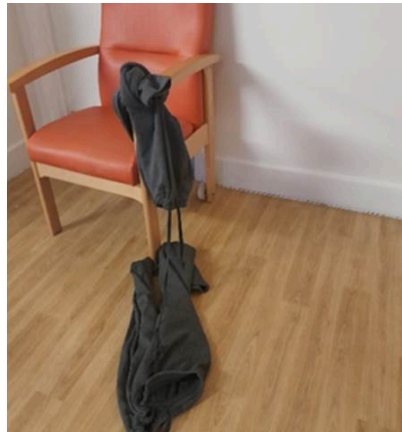
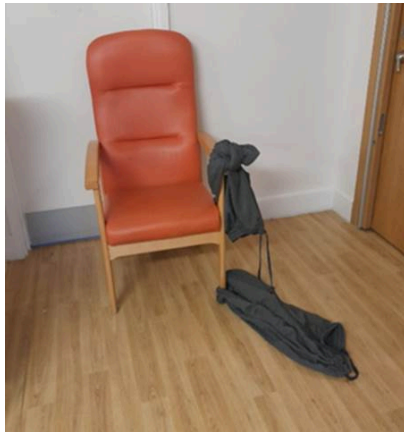
Quality and
Safety

Alert No: 3

Date: 8 July 2025

Ligature risk: Movable furniture as ligature risk

Issue: Exposed wooden frames of chairs which can be used as ligature anchor point.

**Summary of alert:**

A recent serious incident on one of our wards has tragically resulted in the death of a patient due to self-strangulation using an item of clothing tied around the wooden arm of a chair. The chair had been moved by the patient into their bedroom from a communal area.

This incident highlights the serious and potentially fatal risk posed by movable furniture with accessible anchor points, particularly in environments caring for patients with frailty, cognitive impairment, or distress.

What We Need to Do:**All staff are asked to:**

- Immediately remove or restrict wooden-armed chairs from patient bedrooms
- Prevent movement of furniture between areas unless clinically justified
- Consider movable furniture in ligature audits and patient risk assessments
- Escalate any concerns to your matron, health & safety lead or estates team
- Ensure this document is printed and shared with all staff who may not access their emails
- A copy of this alert to be placed in the ward's red ligature wallet

Issued by Health & Safety Team for the attention of:

- Capital projects team
- Estates maintenance teams
- Clinical teams
- Estates and facilities



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