



17 April 2019

Springhill 2
Brindley Way
Wakefield 41 Business Park Wakefield
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Tel: 0845 124 1241

Dear

Re: Use of slings when transporting patients

In recent months, two individual patients, in separate incidents, have suffered serious injuries as a result of being transported in slings designed for use with a hoist.

Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust recognises that specialist equipment helps us to move patients safely, comfortably and with dignity as well as protects staff from injury. However, slings are not designed to remain in situ during transportation and present a very real risk to the patient slipping from their seat and injuring themselves.

Our Patient Transport Service (PTS) provides safe journeys for walking patients, patients with mobility aids, patients seated in their own wheelchairs and patients on stretchers. We can also safely transport patients with complex mobility issues.

We are trusted to provide safe transportation and patient-focussed service to those in our care. **For the safety of all our patients, we will not commence a journey for someone who still has a sling in place.**

This decision has been made in relation to **all** slings as a result of recommendations from incident investigation. Whilst some slings are described as 'non-slip' by their manufacturers, these are not designed or risk assessed for use during transportation in a vehicle. If, however, you feel that removal of the sling will compromise a patient's safety or ongoing clinical care, you may request a risk assessment at the point of making a booking; please note that this can take up to 72 hours to complete.

Providing us with accurate information at the time of booking will allow us to allocate the right vehicle and crew to meet the patient's needs, will prevent journeys from being aborted and ensure that patients can keep valuable healthcare appointments.

Please display the enclosed poster in the vicinity of your hoist(s) as a reminder to staff. If you have any queries relating to this matter or you would like additional posters, please call 01924 584507.

Yours sincerely

Dave Green
Head of PTS Service and Standards