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MEMORANDUM

To: DDSO Directors
IBR Director
Executive Directors Voluntary Agencies
Provider Associations

From: Kathleen M. Broderick *krb*
Associate Commissioner
New York City Regional Office

Michele Gatens *MG*
Associate Commissioner
Upstate Regional Office

Subject: Bed Safety Advisory

Date: January 8, 2007

We have recently become aware that at least one major supplier of twin beds and bedding is offering a new mattress, which if used in conjunction with bedrails, would create a gap with significant entrapment potential.

The industry standard for mattresses and box springs to be used on twin beds is 38 inches wide by 75 inches long. The mattresses in question, which are being offered as an upgraded, replacement mattress, are 35 inches wide by 75 inches long. If this replacement mattress were used with bedrails on a standard twin bed sized box spring, there would be a 3 inch gap between the mattress and the side rail.

OMRDD set forth standards for bed safety within its Bed Safety Checklist and User's Guide in 1999, which were updated in 2002. Providers are expected to ensure that major components of a twin bed are the same width in order to create a safe platform when bed rails are used. This standard has been reinforced by checkpoint #15 in the Bed Safety Checklist, which reads "The bed frame, mattress and box spring are the same width."

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This checkpoint is so critical that it has remained unchanged since the Bed Safety Checklist was originally issued in 1999.

These odd sized mattresses have the potential for creating entrapment sized gaps now and in the future. These mattresses may be held in reserve or placed on a twin bed without bedrails. It may take years before bedrails are added to a bed system with this mattress, which then creates the potential for entrapment.

OMRDD is requesting that each provider promptly inspect the beds in their facilities to confirm that:

1. The bed frame, mattress and box spring of all twin beds with bed rails are the same size.
2. All twin bed mattresses that are kept in storage are the same width as the box springs.
3. All replacement mattresses on order are the same width as the companion box springs.

Any nonconforming mattresses should be immediately taken out of service and either discarded or returned.

You and your staff may contact the following individuals to obtain additional information or clarification on bed safety, and to obtain a copy of the Bed Safety Checklist and Users Guide dated 2002 for reference:

William Schatz	Central NY DDSO	(315) 339-4798
Denise Pensky	Litigation Support Services	(518) 473-6026
Robert Albani	Division of Quality Assurance	(212) 229-3350

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

cc:
OMRDD Leadership Team