

MEMORANDUM

To: Executive Directors, Voluntary Agencies

From: Jan Abelseth
Deputy Commissioner OMRDD Quality Assurance

Date: October 1, 2002

Subject: Release of 2002 Bed Safety Checklist and User's Guide

The OMRDD Bed Safety Checklist and User's Guide were first released in 1999 to state and voluntary agencies that provide residential services to persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. During these past three years all providers have learned the importance of individual planning and risk assessment to insure that the people we serve have safe sleeping arrangements. Using the 1999 documents as foundations, the 2002 Checklist and User's Guide was developed to further clarify safety points, present new strategies, and reinforce the consideration of bed safety options beyond bed rails.

The 2002 User's Guide includes:

- Updated recommendations for minimum review for each check point;
- Detailed problem lists along with cross references;
- Updated choices available for correcting various problems and enhancing bed and bed rail safety;
- Factors and format to consider when assessing risk of injury while in bed; and
- Line drawings of particular check points from the Checklist and User's Guide.

Please feel free to duplicate and share the 2002 Updated Bed Safety Checklist and User's Guide within your organization with persons directly involved with bed and bed rail equipment. This includes service coordinators, residential staff, clinicians, business personnel, including those involved with purchasing, managers responsible for homes serving consumers in need of bed rails for safety, and those involved with quality assurance at a local level. The document continues to be helpful as a reference document when working with vendors during and following purchases of bed rail equipment.

The following individuals are available if you or your staff require additional information or clarification on bed and bed rail safety issues: Robert Albani, Division of Quality Assurance – New York City (212) 229-3350; Elaine Czerw, Office of Internal Affairs (518) 474-4376; and Denise Pensky, Litigation Support Services (518) 473-6026.

Cc:
Commissioner Maul
OMRDD Leadership Team