

## ***NEW MEDICAL BED DIRECTIVE BS EN 60601-2 52:2010***

### **Executive Summary:**

On the 1st April 2013, a new medical beds standard; BSEN60601-2-52: 2010 came into force. All medical beds that were produced, sold or purchased after this date must comply with this standard. This document is designed to prompt an executive overview with regards to the safe use of bed rails, and to help decision makers' source further information. This can be obtained at the MHRA web site:

<http://www.mhra.gov.uk> – specifically: The Safe use of Bed rails: DB 2006 (06) V2.0

**All care beds must carry a CE mark, to show that they have been manufactured in accordance with EU safety directives.**

### **Existing Bed Stocks**

Most care providers own several types of bed including some that were built to the previous standards BSEN1970 and BSEN60601-2-38. If these beds were produced and installed within the care home prior to 1st April 2013 (and are in sound working order) they can remain in use HOWEVER, the use of inappropriate bed rails and / or unsuitable dynamic mattresses can be dangerous and/or compromise the standard.

### **Bed Rail Height 22cm (Caution)**

Particular note should be made to point 1 (the depth between the surface of the uncompressed mattress and the top of bed rail). Some manufacturers have designed their bed rails to suit a mattress depth of just 12.5cm, (a popular size on the continent) whilst others have designed their bed rails for ward use and factored in the depth of deeper cell / overlay dynamic mattresses. A problem arises where care providers provide multiple bed stocks as invariably an incorrect bed and mattress combination can arise. If the bed rails fail to achieve the required 22cm then the patient is at risk, the bed standard is compromised and insurance cover rendered invalid.

### **Head Board Gap: Caution**

Particular note should be made to point 3 (the gap must be less than 60mm between the headboard and start of the bed rail) as this assumes that the bed rail was manufactured specifically to suit the bed frame and is in good working order. In reality many cantilever bed rails are third party designs and may slacken after a number of hours of use. This can expose a dangerous wedge shaped gap, which can lead to entrapment and asphyxiation.