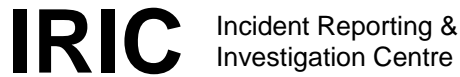


From: IRIC (NHS NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND)

Sent: 10 June 2020 12:19

To: "NHS Boards & Local Authorities" <NHS-LA@scotland.uk.com>

Subject: Information Message IM/2020/012 - Informed Choices: Testing Guidance for Products in Mental Health Facilities



Reference: IM/2020/012

Subject: Informed Choices: Testing Guidance for Products in Mental Health Facilities

This information message is sent to draw the attention of Equipment Co-ordinators to information which may be relevant to the safety of equipment and facilities in NHS Boards and Local Authorities. Please find the information below.

Informed Choices: Testing Guidance for Products in Mental Health Facilities

A key issue for those who are sourcing products for the rooms and facilities in which patients are treated is understanding whether they are suitable for the intended purpose. Building Research Establishment (BRE) and the Design in Mental Health Network (DIMHN), along with input from over 60 other contributors, has developed the new document 'Informed Choices: Testing Guidance for Products in Mental Health Facilities'.

The Testing Guide aims to:

- ensure patient safety is not compromised by inappropriate selection of products for current and future use;
- communicate product-testing requirements to manufacturers to enable them to supply a product that is appropriate for the environment in which it is to be used;
- help procurement teams to better evaluate manufacturers' trade literature;
- discourage the proliferation of unique product testing methods by NHS Trusts and authorities;
- set minimum acceptable standards for products, ensuring they are within stringent NHS cost limits and requirements imposed on mental health facilities;
- provide performance categorisation criteria for products that can easily be referred to by contractors, specifiers, procurement teams and manufacturers
- improve efficiency and design costs.

The Testing Guide provides testing methodologies for materials, fixtures and hardware that have been specifically designed for use within mental healthcare facilities. It brings together the many disparate requirements for these products into one document, enabling suitably qualified experts to choose the most appropriate product.

It will form the basic test methodology for a new certification scheme to be run by BRE Global Limited.

The guide can be downloaded [here](#)

As the Equipment Co-ordinator for your organisation, we recommend that you assess whether or not to forward this information to managers and staff within your area of responsibility who might benefit from being aware of it.

If you received this message directly from IRIC, email us at nss.irc@nhs.scot or phone 0131 275 7575 quoting the IM reference number. Alternatively, if you have received this message from someone in your own organisation, please direct all enquiries to them and they will liaise with IRIC as required.

Incident Reporting & Investigation Centre (IRIC)

Health Facilities Scotland

NHS National Services Scotland

Contact us:

IRIC Email nss.irc@nhs.scot

Helpline 0131 275 7575

<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/health-facilities/incidents-and-alerts/report-an-incident/>

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