

Patient Safety Alert

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AL09-21

May 4, 2009

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- Item:** Arjo Carendo Shower Chair Model BIB 2003-01 or BIB2003-01KT
- Specific Incident:** A caregiver reclined an Arjo Carendo Shower Chair backward while showering a patient resulting in the patient's genitalia being pinched in the seat.
- General Information:** The model BIB 2003-01 and BIB2003-01KT shower chairs have a split seat the permits the chair to be reclined backwards or tipped forward. During the movement of the chair the gap between the forward and back sections of the seat narrows or widens to accommodate the movement. Multiple cases of male patient genitalia being pinched in this shower chair have been reported from VA and private healthcare facilities.
- Actions:** The following actions should be taken if the Arjo Carendo Shower Chair Model BIB 2003-01 or BIB2003-01KT is used:
1. Immediately by close of business (COB) May 5, 2009, the Facility Director (or designee) will ensure that the procedures outlined in Attachment 1 are implemented to mitigate the risk of the patient being pinched in the chair.
 2. By COB May 11, 2009, the Facility Director (or designee) will evaluate all other makes and models of motorized shower chairs used in the facility for potential pinch points. If pinch points are identified implement the actions outlined in, or actions equivalent to, those identified in, Attachment 1.
 3. By COB May 18, 2009, the Patient Safety Manager shall document the status of this Patient Safety Alert on the VHA Hazardous Recalls/Alerts website.
<http://vaww.nbc.med.va.gov/visn/recalls/index.cfm>
- Additional Information:** Arjo has distributed training slides to facilities using this model shower chair to inform them of the pinching risk.
- NCPS and VISN 8 Patient Safety Centers of Inquiry are working with the manufacturer to improve the design of the chair to mitigate this risk.
- Source:** VHA facilities, FDA MAUDE database, and Arjo Corporation.
- Contacts:** Bryanne Patail at the National Center for Patient Safety (NCPS): (734) 930-5890 or Tracie Giovenco at Arjo Corporation: (630) 307-6140.

ATTACHMENT 1: Short term mitigation procedure from Arjo Corporation

VA Carendo Shower Chair Application for Incontinent Patients Step #1 of 2

- When the Care Raiser is in a fully-raised position, place a chux across the bottom seat portion of the lift, beneath the Care Raiser seat, to avoid pinching of male genitalia of incontinent Patient or Resident.



VA Carendo Shower Chair Application for Incontinent Patients Step #2 of 2

- To avoid pinching of male genitalia of incontinent Patient or Resident, pull the chux up through the front of the u-shaped opening of the Care Raiser seat.
- Insure that the Patient or Resident is comfortable before proceeding to lower the Seat



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ATTACHMENT 1 (Contd.)

VA Carendo Shower Chair application
for Continent Patients

- To avoid pinching of male genitalia with Patient or Resident that is continent, the chux can be placed across the seat of the Carendo before the resident is placed in the chair, adding to the comfort of the resident.

