

## Assisted Living Compliance Audit

**TOPIC**

Side Rails on a Hospital-Type Bed System

**AUDITED BY**

**DATE OF AUDIT**

The Minnesota Department of Health will expect side rails used on a hospital-type of bed system will be in compliance with the FDA’s 2006 hospital bed system dimensional and assessment guidance to reduce entrapment in hospital bed systems.

**Task:**

1. Find a resident who has side rails on a hospital-type of bed
2. Review documentation regarding assessment, measurement, and education to verify documentation is in alignment with MDH expectations.
3. Review negotiated risk agreement if one is utilized.

Requirement	Met	Not Met	N/A
1. Documentation indicates the resident’s interaction with the side rail has been assessed to determine the side rail is not acting as a restraint.			
2. Documentation indicates the intended purpose of the side rail (repositioning while in the bed, entering/exiting the bed, etc.).			
3. Documentation indicates the resident has been assessed to determine risk for entrapment in a side rail (cognitive status, pain, incontinence, restlessness, etc.).			
4. Documented measurements indicate Zones 1-4 are within the FDA’s dimensional guidance to reduce entrapment (Zones 1-3 must be less than 4.75 inches, zone 4 less than 2 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> inches). MDH will be looking for actual measurements to be document.			
5. Documentation indicates the side rail is attached securely (not wobbly)			
6. Documentation indicates the resident and/or resident’s representative were educated on the risks and benefits, as well as alternatives, to the side rail.			
7. At each required assessment/reassessment, documentation indicates the side rail is included/addressed in the assessment (“assistive devices” are a required element of the uniform assessment tool).			
8. If the bed system is owned by the consumer, and it does not meet the dimensional guidance measurements, does documentation indicate the facility offered alternatives, discussed and offered interventions to mitigate safety risks, and ensured the bed rail was installed and secured per manufacturer's recommendations?			
9. If the facility elected to utilize a negotiated and/or mitigated risk agreement, does documentation indicate the facility offered alternative interventions to mitigate safety risks and conducted ongoing reassessment for the appropriate use of a bed rail?			

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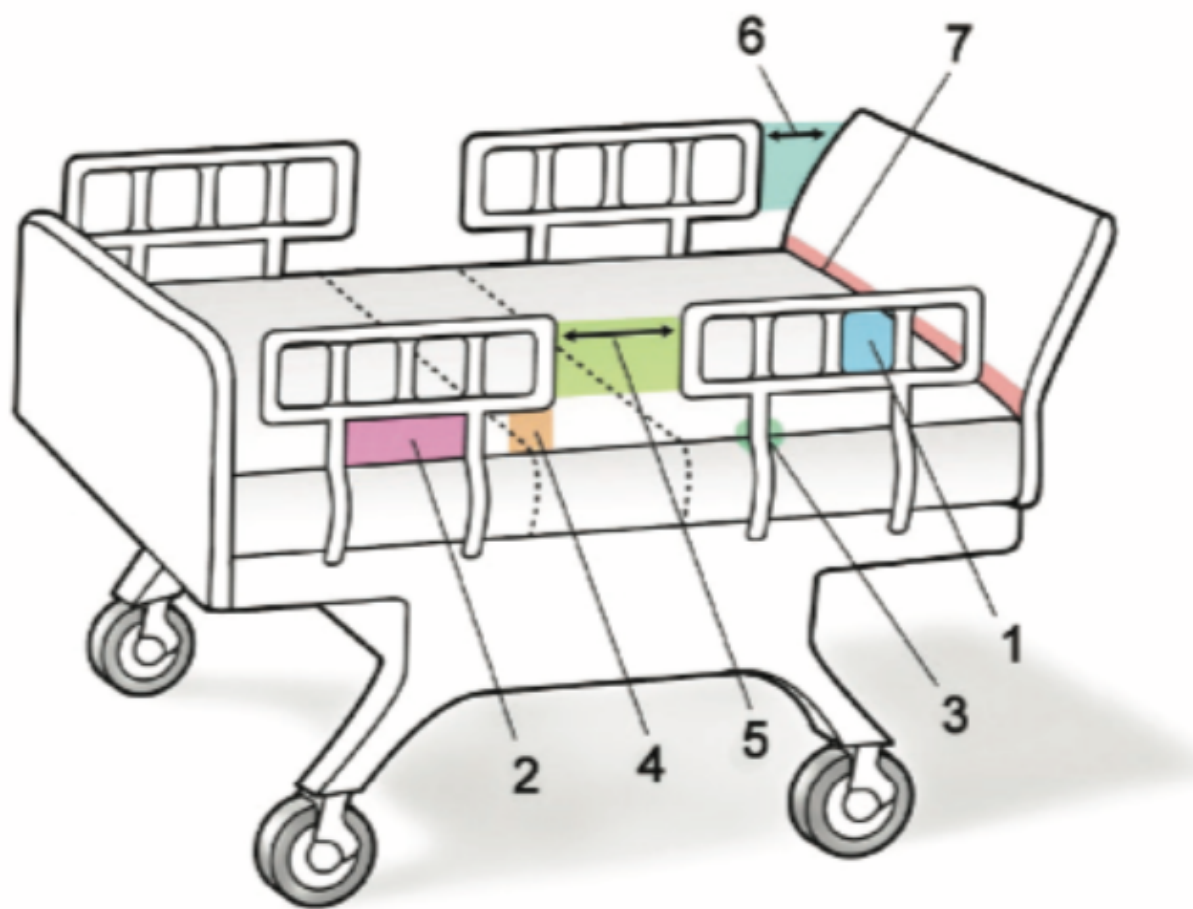
If any applicable requirements are identified as “Not Met”, correct the situation, and review policies, procedures, forms, software, and staff responsibilities to correct the problem going forward.

### Reference(s):

2006 Guidance for Industry and FDA Staff: Hospital Bed System Dimensional and Assessment Guidance to Reduce Entrapment

MDH Assisted Living FAQ Website: Hospital-style bed rails

Care  
Providers  
*of Minnesota*



1. Within the rail
2. Under the rail, between the rail supports or next to a single rail support
3. Between the rail and the mattress
4. Between the rail, at the ends of the rail