

Appendix 1 – Example adult entrapment risk assessment checklist

This is an example of a basic risk assessment of a bed rail installation for an adult. It should not be adopted or used without adequate consideration of a specific bed occupant's needs and local policies and may need to be preceded by an assessment of whether rails are necessary at all. A separate checklist would be necessary for a child or very small adult user.

The checklist should be used in conjunction with the guidance in this document, together with the judgement of the nurse, therapist, user and carer involved.

Is the bed rail to be used with an adult-sized user (i.e. a patient taller than 1.46m/4'11")?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Has the bed rail been inspected and maintained regularly, if previously used?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the manufacturer/supplier provide any information on special considerations or contra-indications?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have enough information from the supplier to be able to select and fit the bed rail appropriately?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the bed rail suitable for the intended bed, according to the supplier's instructions?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do the fittings or mattress allow the bed rail to be fitted to the bed securely, so that there is no excessive movement?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the benefit of any special or extra mattress outweigh any increased entrapment risk by the bed rails created by extra compression at the mattress edge?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the bed rail height take into account any increased mattress thickness or additional overlay?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>Have you made sure that there are no gaps present that could present an entrapment risk to any part of patient's body?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • between the bars of the bed rails? 120 mm max • through any gap between the bed rail and side of the mattress? • through the gap between the lower bed rail bar and the mattress platform, allowing for compression of the mattress at its edge? 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the headboard to bed rail end gap appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

'Yes' boxes indicate the desired outcome. If any 'No' box has been ticked, there may be a serious risk of entrapment with the proposed combination. Review immediately.

Risk assessments should be carried out before use and then reviewed and recorded after each significant change in the bed occupant's condition, replacement of any part of the equipment combination and regularly during its period of use, according to local policy.