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For Immediate Release:

Graham-Field Health Products Welcomes FDA Bed Safety Guidelines

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On March 10, 2006, the FDA released the long-awaited guidelines for reducing the risk of bed entrapment, "Hospital Bed System Dimensional and Assessment Guidance to Reduce Entrapment". The new guidance identifies potential entrapment areas and those body parts most at risk for entrapment; provides design criteria for manufacturers of new hospital beds; recommends test methods to assess the conformance of existing hospital bed systems; and answers frequently-asked questions about this subject. The guidance defines a hospital bed system—which could be used for patients in acute care, long-term care, or homecare settings—as "the bed frame and its components, including the mattress, bed side rails, head and foot board, and any accessories added to the bed".

Graham-Field encourages all hospital bed owners to read the FDA guidance. Please visit the FDA's [Hospital Bed Safety](#) page, where you will find many resources, including a link to the new [Guidance](#); ordering instructions for a [Testing Kit](#) which you can use to determine whether your beds are in conformance with the guidance; and a discussion of [Clinical Guidance](#), which you can use to assess an individual patient's needs when using a side rail. These resources will supply you with the knowledge to evaluate the safety of the hospital beds you currently own. If you still have questions concerning entrapment and beds you have purchased from Graham-Field, please call our Long-Term Care Bed Division Customer Service Department at 800-365-2338.

The new guidance is the result of a long-standing collaboration between the FDA and the **Hospital Bed Safety Workgroup** (HBSW), formed in 1999. Graham-Field's Long-Term Care Bed Division, Basic American Medical Products, is an HBSW charter member. As a result of Graham-Field's commitment to product safety, **all current long-term care beds conform to the new guidance**, as well as Medical Equipment Safety Standards UL60601 and UL2601. As nursing homes purchase newer equipment, they should never settle for less.

GF Health Products, Inc., headquartered in Atlanta, GA, is a major manufacturer and distributor of healthcare products for the long-term care, acute care and homecare markets. Its products include long-term care and homecare beds, patient aids, diagnostics, specialty seating products, and manual and power wheelchairs.

Graham-Field has manufacturing facilities located in Fond du Lac, WI; Central Falls, RI; Indonesia, Taiwan and China. Graham-Field's name brand products include Basic American Medical Products, Lumex, Everest & Jennings, John Bunn, Grafc0 and Labtron.

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