

Chiltern Invadex adopted a multi-functional team approach. A Clinical Manager reviewed the current moving and handling practice within the mortuary department, and with the project team identified a safer working practice for mortuary staff, that reduced the risk of muscular-skeletal disorders, while maintaining the dignity of the deceased.

The process identified the nature of moving and handling transfers within the mortuary setting.

These included:

- \* Transfer between concealment and hydraulic trolleys
- \* Transfer from hydraulic trolley to refrigerator area
- \* Transfer from the fridge to a hydraulic trolley, through to the Post Mortem Room and vice versa
- \* Transfer from a hydraulic trolley to Funeral Directors stretcher or a coffin.



*Transferring from fridge to Post Mortem Room*

The Mortuary Body Scoop was designed to suit the wide variation in size and shape of deceased patients. Used in conjunction with the Wispa Ceiling Mounted Hoist, the system can handle deceased patients up to 272kg (42 stones) in weight.

### **Risk Assessment**

Following installation, a risk assessment was completed, to ensure the system complemented safe working practices in the mortuary. Ongoing development of the mortuary system involved focus group meetings with other clinicians from Northern General Hospital Sheffield and Leighton Hospital.

In the Post Mortem Room the tray transfer system was designed to reduce pushing and pulling, when using the hydraulic trolley. This system enables the technician to attach the frame to the tray. The tray is then hoisted, with the deceased, and transferred from the fridge area, through the door to the Post Mortem Room, where the tray then becomes the Post Mortem table.

## Design focus

The structural nature of the Barnsley Mortuary building required a bespoke installation to provide the necessary features.

A low false ceiling, ventilation plant and ducts created a special set of challenges for the installation team.

Major Projects Manager Kevin Tutton explained the challenge;

“All tracks were suspended 750mm below the concrete ceiling. We had to ensure that the four fixed parallel tracks were within a tolerance of +/-3mm of each other”.

“It was necessary to adapt the existing doorway to enable the hoist to pass from room to room. The existing concrete door lintel was raised by 500mm and blockwork installed”.

Chiltern Invadex worked in conjunction with Barnsley District General Hospital Estates Department to provide detailed installation drawings.

## Connecting the track

The track is powered into position to allow transfer from the body storage area to the Post Mortem area. A simple lever operation allows the hoist to travel from one track layout to another, without the need for an electrical system.

*“As a result of this joint initiative (Barnsley District General Hospital and Chiltern Invadex) the Mortuary Department is now able to treat the deceased with dignity and respect and ensure that manual handling needs are significantly reduced”*

Jane Rutter - General Manager  
Barnsley District General  
Hospital NHS Trust.



*Easy storage connection without lifting*



*The Wispa Ceiling Mounted Hoist allows easy transfer to the Post Mortem Room*



*A simple connection with automatic engagement between track sections allows transfer to the Post Mortem Room*

# Moving and Handling Case Study

**Barnsley Mortuary benefits from joint development project to reduce risks associated with manual handling**



*Complete room coverage throughout the fridge area, allowing transfer to the Post Mortem Room*

Since the inception of the Manual Handling Operations Regulations (1992) healthcare providers have been gradually working toward safer patient handling policies, in order to avoid the need for manual handling. Barnsley District General Hospital Mortuary is no exception.

A development team, comprising of the General Manager, Chief MLSO, Estates Department, Portering Manager, Supplies Manager, Infection Control and

Back Care Advisor recognised the need to purchase a range of appropriate equipment that would remove the need to manually lift the whole or large part of a deceased patients weight.

In a joint development project Chiltern Invadex designed a Mortuary Transfer System to ensure dignity and respect when handling the deceased, whilst reducing the amount of manual lifting, pulling and pushing involved during transfer.

As reported by the Health and Safety Commission 1998 ...

“Between 1992 and 1995, nearly 14,000 manual handling accidents in health services were reported to the HSE, over 60% involved patient handling.

Injuries will continue unless manual handling risks are eliminated, or modified to reduce risk”.

