

# Trampoline park safety legislation: springtime in Cheshire

**Sir,**

Indoor trampoline parks have sprung up throughout the UK in recent years, with approximately 100 in operation (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, 2018). Within a 4-week period (5 January–2 February 2017), eight cases of thoracolumbar spinal fracture and one of cervical subluxation sustained in trampoline-related accidents were referred to the authors' tertiary neurosurgical unit from accident and emergency departments in Chester and the North Wales area. These alarmingly high numbers represented a cluster of cases 400% over the previously observed incidence.

At the time of these injuries, the International Association of Trampoline Parks, British Standards Institution and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents had published draft safety guidance for trampoline parks (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, 2017). However, these were not finalised, nor in use. Guidance has since been finalised and published, but

existing parks still have until September 2018 to declare compliance (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, 2018).

General Medical Council (2013) guidance states that: 'If patients are at risk because of inadequate premises, equipment or other resources, policies or systems, you should put the matter right if that is possible.' The medical profession should therefore be aware of the real risks that trampoline parks present to patients, and should be calling for stricter safety policies to prevent further injury.

The concerns of the authors' department concerns have been escalated to the Health and Safety Executive. The authors would encourage clinicians in emergency departments, neurosurgical units or general practice throughout the UK to be vigilant regarding injuries sustained in trampoline parks, in case these represent a similar cluster in their area.

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General Medical Council (2013) Respond to risks to safety. [www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/good\\_medical\\_practice/respond\\_to\\_risks.asp](http://www.gmc-uk.org/guidance/good_medical_practice/respond_to_risks.asp) (accessed 3 February 2017)

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (2017) Trampoline Parks - Information for managers of commercial centres. [www.rospa.com/play-safety/advice/trampolines/](http://www.rospa.com/play-safety/advice/trampolines/) (accessed 3 February 2017)

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