

Metal Detector - Use of Hand Held Device Procedure

HBDHB/OPM/130

Approved by:	Chief Operating Officer	First Issued:	September 2021	
Signature:	Chris Ash	Review Date:		
		Next Review:	September 2024	

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- inform staff the circumstances under which use of a hand-held metal detector is appropriate.
- describe how to use a Garrett hand-held metal detector and who is authorised to use them.
- outline the responsibilities and legalities for the use of hand-held metal detectors, for searching patients who may have ingested metals or have concealed dangerous sharps/metals or fire lighting equipment on or about their person.

Principles

All Hawkes Bay District Health Board documents are based on and link back to our values; **He Kāuanuanu** (respect), **Ākina** (improvement), **Rarangatitira** (partnership) and **Tauwhiro** (care), and are detailed so all persons are provided with clear information on the way they are expected to practice and undertake tasks.

The following New Zealand Legislations are applicable to this document:

- [Privacy Act 2020](#)
- [Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights](#)
- [Crimes Act 1961](#)
- [Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#)
- [Health and Safety at Work \(General Risk and Workplace Management\) Regulations 2016](#)

HBDHB Statement

The Hawkes Bay District Health Board and its staff do not have legal authority to conduct a search of the patient, or their property. However, where there is reasonable risk of serious harm to staff/patient/other patients/visitors as a result of a person using a concealed weapon, then we can use the detector to determine if this is the case. Its objective is to determine whether the person concerned is carrying any instrument that could be used as a weapon against others. Examples of instruments includes but are not limited to: cutlery, cigarette lighters, knives.

Security officers operate under the authority pertaining to a private citizen. They therefore have the right within the law to prevent a criminal act. Security officers are agents for the HBDHB which they are engaged to protect.


[Crimes Act 1961 : Section 41](#) : Prevention of suicide or certain offences:

Everyone is justified in using such force as may be reasonably necessary in order to prevent the commission of suicide, or the commission of an offence which would be likely to cause immediate and serious injury to the person or property of any one, or in order to prevent any act being done which he believes, on reasonable grounds, would, if committed, amount to suicide or to any such offence.

Scope

All Staff of Hawkes Bay District Health Board. Refer to 'Roles and Responsibilities' below to determine who can authorise the use of a hand held metal detector.

Definitions

Term/Abbreviation	Meaning
Hand-held Metal Detector [the device]	<p>The device is used to carry out a non-invasive search of a person for metallic items. When a metallic item is detected, the device vibrates and a red light emitting diode flashes</p>  <p><i>Figure 1: The Garrett Tactical Hand-Held Metal Detector :1165900</i></p> <p>Refer to Appendix 1 for Device Specifications</p>
Ingested metals	<p>Includes but not limited to: Coins, batteries, needles, knives, razor blades, scalpels, rings, ball bearings, screws, staples, washers etc.</p>
Dangerous sharps/ metals	<p>Metal objects that may be used to cause harm to a person or others (for example razor blade, scalpel, knife, fork)</p>

Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
A Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking	<p>Ensures the organisation has a fit-for-purpose risk management system in place, to provide suitable and sufficient controls for identified hazards/risks</p>
Managers of teams	<p>Ensure that staff are trained and competent to use a hand-held metal detector device</p> <p>Ensure the process is monitored and incident outcomes are reported</p> <p>Ensure the patient rights are considered each time the detector is used</p> <p>Ensure the device is calibrated regularly, and remains fit for purpose</p>
Officers of the Hawkes Bay District health Board	<p>Ensure that there are sufficient resources in place to manage the risks to safety, health & wellbeing of our staff; this includes but is not limited to staff, equipment, safe systems of work, training, monitoring, and supervision</p>
Workers	<p>Participate in training to use the device</p> <p>Use the device as prescribed in this document</p> <p>Report outcomes for each use</p>

Role	Responsibility
Security	Security officers operate under the authority pertaining to a private citizen. They therefore have the right within the law to prevent a criminal act. Security officers act as agents for the Hawkes Bay District Health Board which they are engaged to protect.
Manager - Security	Coordinates training on demand / as required. All security staff to be trained, and records held.
Emergency Department: Senior Medical Officer on Duty Duty Manager Security Manager Police (on request) Senior Nurse on Duty: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ngā Ra Rākau• Napier Health Centre• Wairoa Health Centre	Can authorise the use of a hand-held metal detector for the purposes of searching a patient in the locations specified.

When to use

The use of hand-held metal detectors must only be used in a situation where:

- it is reasonably believed that a patient may have a dangerous item/s on their person,
- there is a risk of violence, and
- Police are unable to attend to carry out a search

Who can use the Hand-Held Metal Detector

Only those staff trained in the use of hand-held metal detectors may perform the search. Staff who will be trained include all security personnel and clinical staff in high risk areas.

Patient Consent

Consent must first be obtained before a hand-held metal detector is used to search a patient.

If a patient does not consent to a search with a hand-held metal detector, and it is impracticable to take any further steps which may lead to the discovery of a suspected dangerous item, staff should not proceed with the search and assistance must be sought from HB DHB Security or Police

For a proposed search where the person is aged 0 to 17 (eg. an ingested object) then consent must be sought from the parent / guardian. The parent / guardian must be present throughout the search. The presence of consent must be recorded in the young person's Health Record.

The search is only to consist of such steps, which are reasonable in the circumstances and the minimum necessary to establish whether or not the patient does or does not have dangerous item/s in their possession.

Search Outcomes

Searching with a hand-held metal detector is never a pre-condition of assessment, admission or treatment. It arises only if staff believe there is a threat of violence, assault or self-harm using a concealed instrument or weapon

If a patient does not consent to a search with a hand-held metal detector, and it is impracticable to take any further steps which may lead to the discovery of a suspected dangerous item, then staff should not proceed with the search using the hand-held metal detector.

If there is concern that a weapon is concealed, **no treatment should proceed without making arrangements for the staff member's safety**. Further, failure to obtain consent must be recorded in the person's health record, along with what alternative strategies were enacted to manage the risk.

For a proposed search where the person is aged 0 to 17 (for example an ingested object) then the parent/guardian must consent to the process. The parent/guardian must be present throughout the search. The presence of consent must be recorded in the young person's Health Record.

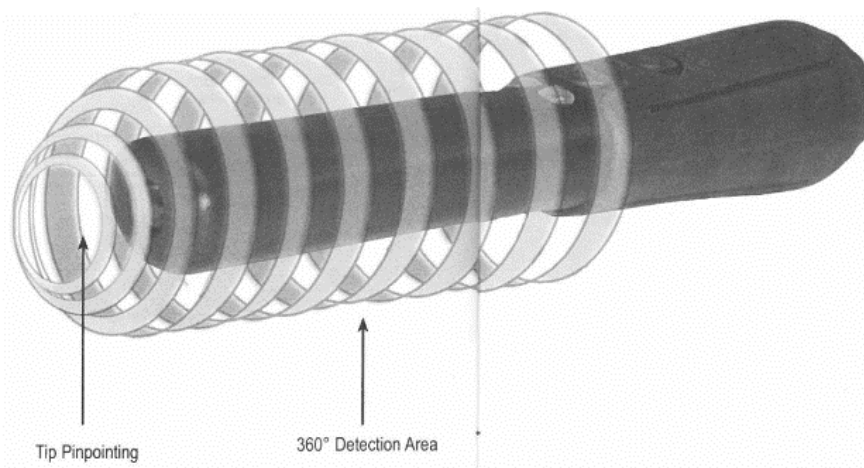
The search is only to consist of such steps, which are reasonable in the circumstances and the minimum necessary to establish whether or not the person does or does not have dangerous item/s in their possession.

It is important that the clinical staff member records their reasons for conducting a search with a hand-held metal detector, including the nature of the area being searched on the patient, and the reasons for believing that the patient may have dangerous items in their possession.

Procedure

- 1 When performing the search, tell the person what you are doing.
- 2 Turn the detector on by pressing the on / off buttons.





- 3 When the device is on, scan within approximately 2.5 centimetres of the person being searched. Operation is automatic - no returning or adjusting is necessary. The device can detect ferrous, non-ferrous and stainless-steel metals.
- 4 To scan feet and ankles, sweep the device up and down and approximately 2 to 5 centimetres above the floor or ground.
- 5 When metal is detected anywhere within the detector's operating range you will feel vibration and see a red light
- 6 If the hand-held metal detector indicates the presence of a metal object/s then the subject is to be asked to produce the object.
 - a. If the person does not agree to producing the metal object/s then the person will be isolated and Police advised.
 - b. A watch must be put in place until the Police arrive so that the person is not able to self-harm.
- 7 Documentation of the search outcome is to be recorded in the person's health record. A senior attending clinician must complete this task. The entry into the health record is to include:
 - a. reason for the search
 - b. names of people present during the search
 - c. results of the search, and
 - d. final disposition of any dangerous items.

It is important you record why the search happened including the nature of the area of the person being searched, and the reasons for believing that the person may have dangerous items in their possession.

Risks and Hazards

In order to protect staff/patients/visitors on all Hawkes Bay District Health Board sites, security systems are provided and reasonable precautions are taken to ensure:

- Everyone is safe while on Hawkes Bay District Health Board property
- Staff do not put themselves at risk
- Only appropriately trained and competent staff can use hand-held metal detectors
- Hand-held metal detectors meet industry standards and requirements

NB. Safety precautions have been designed into the detector. The Hand-Held Metal Detector meets Conformité Européenne (CE) and other international standards for electromagnetic compatibility and safety. Extensive research has found no information that would indicate this Garrett product has adverse effects on pregnancy, medical devices or magnetic recording media. Directives of physicians and medical device manufacturers must be followed. Staff are not required to wear any personal protective equipment whilst operating the Garrett Hand-Held Metal Detector.

Risk/Hazard	Control
Threatening/aggressive behaviour	HBDHB/EPM/030 – Management of Challenging Situations

Measurable Outcomes

A reduced number of events where people are harmed by objects that can be located by a hand-held metal detector

Related Documents

[Management of Challenging Situations - EPM030](#)

[Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers Rights Policy - OPM005](#)

[Risk Management Policy \(Safety & Wellbeing\) - H&S/001](#)

[Risk Management Procedure \(Safety & Wellbeing\) - H&S/002](#)

[Legislative Compliance Policy - OPM094](#)

[Security Policy - OPM011](#)

[Ngā Rau Rākau Alarm / Call Response Procedure - 8506](#)

[Ngā Rau Rākau Patient Property / Valuables Management Procedure - 8503](#)

[Ngā Rau Rākau Possession & use of illicit Substances - 8510](#)

References

[The utility of handheld metal detector in confirming metallic foreign body ingestion in the paediatric emergency department.](#)

Saz EU, Arikan C, Ozgenç F, Duyu M, Ozananar Y.

Source : Department of Emergency Medicine, Ege University School of Medicine, Children's Hospital, Izmir.
ulas.saz@ege.edu.tr

International Journal of Clinical Practice : [Diagnostic uses of metal detectors: a review](#) G. P. Conners

Garrett Super Wand Hand Held Metal Detector training video- www.garrett.com (Video training module : <https://garrett.com/security/hand-held/thd-tactical-hand-held-metal-detector>)

Keywords

Security

Hand-held metal detector

Search

Foreign object

Metal

Garrett

Body search

For further information please contact the Manager, Security Service

APPENDIX 1

Device Specifications

Controls:

Power switch On / Off

Light Emitting Diode flashlight momentary

Operating temperatures: - 37o C to +70o C

Operating frequency: 95 kHz

Light Alerts:

Red Light Emitting Diode light illuminates when metallic target has been detected.

Green Light Emitting Diode light remains illuminated while the detector is on and will change to amber Light Emitting Diode when the battery is low and should be replaced.

Vibrator:

The silent vibrator activates when a metallic target has been detected.

Light Emitting Diode flashlight:

When the detector is on, the Light Emitting Diode flashlight button (labelled "Light") may be pressed and held to activate the bright Light Emitting Diode flashlight at the tip of the unit. The Light Emitting Diode flashlight turns off when the "Light" button is released.

Battery:

Remove the battery when the device is to be stored for more than 30 days.

Single 9 volt battery provides up to 80 hours of operation. There is a screw-on battery cover to access / change the battery – note the polarity when replacing the battery.

Optional Nickel Metal Hydride rechargeable batteries provided to 25 hours on each 12 hour recharge.

Dimensions:

Length 22 centimetres

Thickness 3.8 centimetres tapered to 2.9 centimetres.

Scan area 8 centimetres long 360° plus tip.

Weight 200 grammes