



ORGANIZING THE HUGS TAGS

The Hugs tags cost \$119 apiece. More importantly, you may want to emphasize this point with your staff. Some nurses forget this fact; and, consequently, have “accidentally” thrown away perfectly good tags. Others struggle with good organization and “lose” them either down the laundry chute or they simply “walk away.”

- 10 lost tags would cost \$1,190. That’s a lot of money when you consider how tight most budgets are.
- Each tag is warranted for one (1) year. The warranty date is printed on the front of the tag itself. Some nurses have confused this with the expiration date and have thrown the tags away after only one year. Although the Hugs tag is warranted for one year, with normal use, they last, on average, up to 15 months or longer.
 - The Hugs tag will give you a “low battery alert” when it needs to be taken out of circulation. You never have to guess. Just like driving your car after the warranty expires, you should use the Hugs tag until the low battery alert sounds, even after the warranty expires.



How do you organize your tags? Where do you keep them? Do you know when one comes up missing? If I came to your hospital today, could you definitively tell me which tags you have, which ones are on patients, and where all the others are stored? These questions and others can help you begin evaluating your current policy for handling your Hugs tags. At the heart of the issue is understanding that the tags are the core part of a patient protection system and need to be taken care of.

- You should designate a specific spot to store your tags that is easily accessed by all nurses who need to use them.
 - Some hospitals keep them in a drawer or cabinet near the nurses’ station, while others keep them in a secured cart with other medical supplies.
 - Wherever you keep them, you should have them together. Just throwing them into a drawer with everything else makes them hard to find and track.
- Stanley Healthcare offers an optional tag storage device that hangs on the wall to assist with keeping the tags in order and to make sure they are rotated in usage.

Stanley Tag Storage Devices



- Remember, one way to get a longer battery life from a tag is by using all tags equally – first in last out.
 - It becomes impossible to track if they are thrown just anywhere.
- Remember, too, that these tags are for use on a patient – a high priority should be placed on keeping them clean and ready to use versus just thrown in a drawer or cabinet somewhere.
- Another reason for organization is preventing a shortage of tags during a high census. If you are unaware that tags are missing or have been thrown away, you will not know when to order new ones and may run short.
- IMS suggests starting out with a spreadsheet with sign-in/sign-out spots to track tag usage.
 - Make a list of all the tags you currently have. Once confirmed, make that list into a log sheet and post it near the tags, having the nurses check tags out and then back in.
 - Consider creating a spot on the sheet for check out, check in, cleaning, and, finally, returned to storage.
 - This will help ensure (if used correctly) that all tags are always accounted for.
 - A sample spreadsheet is included in this section of the Implementation Planner.

