



# Patient Security System Newsletter

HUGS—PEDZ—PASSPORT  
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## Is That Fitting?

Like dough rising over a bread pan, I felt my stomach and sides curl over my jeans. The feeling of denim constricting around my thighs should have been cause to turn around before reaching a point of no return. By now, though, I was around the curve and in my final stretch.

I was committed to buttoning those jeans. So, I sucked in my gut. There was no hope. I pulled that button toward the button-hole with all my might. Still, too far away. Finally, I tipped back onto my bed and with a violent tug ...

Success! I buttoned my pants. I let in a breath of relief and thought, “They still fit.” I was naïve. With a sigh of defeat and a swift thud, the button tore from my jeans, launching itself into the air and landing on the floor next to my bed.

Who was I fooling? Two pregnancies worth of sympathy weight, Moose Tracks Ice Cream before bed, and a bad habit for doing nothing; I had gained weight! “How could I let this happen?”

Like managing a waist line, the fit of your patient’s security tag is best managed with daily attention. When it comes to patient security the stakes are high and a poor fitting tag means your patient’s safety may be compromised.

So, if you are using the Hugs Tag and your system utilizes *Baby Sense* (skin sensing feature), we recommend applying the Hugs Tag so that it wiggles on the pa-

tient’s skin but does not rotate freely around their wrist or ankle; Wiggle-Not-Rotate. Wiggle-Not-Rotate ensures that the back, black part of the tag and the brown part of the strap are maintaining light, consistent contact with your patient’s skin. Wiggle-Not-Rotate is the proper fit to secure your patient.

If your team uses the Passport or Pedz Tags to protect older patients, things are slightly different. These tags do not utilize skin sensing, so they can fit more relaxed. They should be placed tight enough on the wrist or ankle so that they cannot be slipped over the hand or foot. While abductions are still a concern, older patients wearing Passport or Pedz tags are at a growing risk for elopement or wandering. A loose-fitting tag could be slipped off, allowing them to leave without alarm.

It doesn’t matter which tag you are using, if there is edema around your patient’s wrist or ankle you must act quickly. If your patient swells, their Tag’s strap or band will become increasingly constricting. Stretching the strap is not an option. You’ll need to *Suspend Tamper* and replace the strap so the tag fits properly.

So, taking every reasonable opportunity to assess the Tag fit is important. Maintaining Wiggle-Not-Rotate is key to your patient’s security. Most newborns lose weight in their first 48 hours of life. So, of course, the Tag fit changes. As part of your patient assessments, take time to assess the fit of your Tags. Remember, you should get your hands on the tag and wiggle it to make sure it doesn’t rotate.

How about when you are teaching a new parent how to swaddle their baby? If you have your patient unwrapped and have access to their ankle, assess the fit. Disciplines like these will keep your patients safe and keep you from hearing Check Tag Tightness Events and Tag Loose Alarms.

The Check Tag Tightness Event serves as an urgent reminder to tighten the strap and restore Wiggle-Not-Rotate. With the Check Tag Tightness Event, your doors won’t lock, there won’t be any overhead chiming, and you won’t have to log into the Hugs computer to enter an Alarm Note. Typically, the devices on your ceiling will flash and you’ll need to tighten the strap. Once tightened, the Check Tag Tightness event will automatically clear.

However, if your team cannot tighten the strap within two minutes, a Check Tag Tightness Event will escalate to the more demanding Tag Loose Alarm. Tag Loose Alarms cause the devices on your ceiling to chime and strobe. After you tighten that strap, you’ll need to enter an Alarm Note to clear the Alarm. While this Alarm and Event serve a valuable purpose, they are not reminders you’ll want to need.

I’ve lost quite a bit of weight since trying on those blue jeans and I’m glad for it. Today, I’m at a decreased risk for heart disease, cancer and type 2 diabetes. Staying attentive to the tag and how it fits on your patient will put your team at a decreased risk for abductions and elopements.

*Kyle Jones, Corporate Trainer, IMS*



## New Digs!

Congratulations to our friends at UP Health System in Marquette, Michigan. They were all smiles as they opened their beautifully appointed new facility Sunday, June 2 at 6:00 am. Prior to their opening and Hugs Go Live, they participated in department wide on-site training. They also practiced their skills during site-wide “Day-In-The-Life Drills”, gleaned lessons to further polish their security. With confidence and cheers they welcomed their first patients and introduced them to their brand new Hugs Patient Security System, equipped with the Kisses feature for Mother/Infant matching.