



Patient Security System Newsletter

HUGS—PEDZ—PASSPORT
Volume 5—Issue 8—August 2017



It Ain't Over Till...

We are in the thick of baseball season and teams are focused on finishing well. Yogi Berra, Yankees' long time catcher and manager was the king of quotable quotes. He is responsible for quips like:

"If fans don't want to come to the ball park, no one can stop 'em."

"The future ain't what it used to be."

"Baseball is 90% mental and the other half is physical."

"No one goes there nowadays. It's too crowded!" And one of my favorites . . .

"It ain't over till it's over."

When it comes to your Patient Security System (PSS), it is possible, but not advisable, to stop before it's over. So, let's talk about some topics that can easily be overlooked before it's actually "over." Be sure to finish well.

Discharge from the PSS Workstation

When it is time to discharge your protected patient, bring them to the PSS workstation to discharge them electronically. Having been very careful to protect your patients during their entire stay, it makes little sense to leave them unprotected for the final minutes of their time with you.

After gathering their belongings, as the final act before they leave, bring your patient to the PSS workstation and discharge them from the system. This does two important things: 1) it keeps your

patient fully protected until the very end of their stay and 2) it helps you maintain your tag inventory. If you find you are missing tags, review discharge procedures and begin discharging patients by bringing them to the PSS workstation.

Remove the Tag

Once discharged from the PSS, remove the tag from your patient. This sounds overly obvious but if you forget to remove the tag after it is discharged from the system, it will not alarm at the exit to remind you. It is discharged and the system has been told to ignore that particular tag.

We joke with staff during training sessions and say, "If you forget to remove the tag after discharging it, the only alarming thing that will occur is when you have to make a call to try to get the tag back." They laugh because they know we jest but the point is made. The tag will go home with the patient if it's not removed.

Pull the Strap from the Tag

Make sure that after the tag is removed from the patient, you immediately pull or remove the strap completely out of the tag. Especially with Hugs tags, if the strap pieces are left in the tag, there is a possibility that the strap pieces could touch causing the tag to auto admit into the system. (Note: Always use the removal key for Pedz and Passport tags)

When discussing this problem at one large hospital, I quickly noticed that every staff member wore a knowing smile. They had so many tags auto admit back into

their system due to this oversight that every staff member knew about the issue.

The biggest concern here is not that the tag auto admits if the strap pieces reconnect after discharge. It is that those same pieces can jostle apart, causing a Tamper Alarm, strobes, chimes and locking doors.

Use a Dirty Tag Bin

Some of our sites have found that they have fewer lost tags when they place a small container near their PSS workstation labeled "Dirty Tags." Staff develops the habit of discharging from the computer, removing the tag, pulling the pieces and dropping it into the dirty bin for cleaning. Fewer tags go out the door on patients, in staff pockets or down the laundry chute wrapped in dirty linens.

Clean the Tags Properly

Last month, we sent out the new manufacturer guidelines for cleaning the tags. After much research, Stanley Healthcare issued a list of approved cleaners and a list of non-approved cleaners. Work with your infection control department to select a cleaner from the approved list which also meets the infection control standards at your site. Using a non-approved cleaner will void the manufacturer warranty on your tags.

Always Touch All the Bases

Babe Ruth once said, "I had only one superstition. I made sure to touch all the bases when I hit a homerun." When it comes to protecting your patients, always finish well and make sure that you touch

Compact "Shorter Height" Bassinet

Specially designed for rooming-in and fall risk avoidance practices. The compact bassinet is lower to afford mom an easier reach with their infant, especially if she had a C-section or difficult delivery.

- Stainless steel handle for better infection control, clean-ability and aesthetics.
- LED drawer lights (optional) are designed for patient safety and comfort. They are self-activating with a 15 second auto-off for long battery life. These may also enhance responses to the HCAHPS patient survey (Question 8).

