



Patient Security System Newsletter

HUGS—PEDZ—PASSPORT

Volume 5—Issue 9— September 2017



Alarms are not the Enemy!

Last month as I watched a sporting event, a group of men started fighting and eventually a game started. You may be thinking this sounds a lot like hockey, but it wasn't, it was baseball. Multiple hitters in the game had been hit by pitches and the tensions had risen so high that the benches cleared and the punches started flying. Luckily, there were umpires in place to restore order, and hand out punishments.

Can you imagine watching any professional sporting event without well trained officials? While the game might proceed for a while without any incident, eventually there would most likely be major chaos. The officials act as informants that something in the game has gone wrong and needs to be corrected. They are vital to ensuring that the game is played fairly and correctly.

The Patient Security System was intended to assist staff members because they cannot be with each patient 24 hours a day to watch them and keep them safe. The tags together with the

system protection provides peace of mind when the staff cannot be present. However, there has to be a method to alert the staff when a potential abduction or elopement has taken place. This takes the form of an alarm. If the system did not alarm, it really would be worthless. It would not be doing the work it was created to do. Much like an official in a game, alarms are vital to the success of a patient security system.

Responding to ALARMS

When an alarm occurs, how you respond to it is very important. To begin with, the more staff members who respond, the quicker the alarm will be cleared. If the alarm calls for finding a patient, or chasing after an abductor, many hands make light work, and time is your enemy.

Often there is a complaint that it takes too long to clear certain Patient Security alarms, yet in many cases, only one staff member is responding and trying to deal with the situation. Imagine how different it would be with some help, if help is available.

Before clearing alarms, one major point to always remember. **MAKE SURE THE PATIENT IS SAFE FIRST!** This may sound obvious, but in the heat of the

moment, you may be tempted to clear the alarm to get some silence, and then go check on the patient. By doing so, you may actually be allowing an abductor to get out of your unit or a patient who is eloping to walk into a dangerous life threatening situation. The system alarmed to tell the staff of a potential life threatening situation, and the proper response is to always check the safety of the patient first, then clear the alarm.

ALARM REPORTS

Yes, alarms can be frustrating, but they are a necessary part of the system and can be managed well with a little effort and patience.

Each month IMS sends out alarm reports to help you manage the alarms at your facility and identify areas where your staff could benefit from additional training and direction to perhaps help lower nuisance alarms. It's a group effort and we are here to work with you to help keep your patients as safe as possible. Alarms are not the enemy, rather they protect patients from the enemy—potential abductors or those who may cause self harm by trying to elope.

~By Jeff Smalla~

Zebra Label Printer Mounting Solutions

Our label printer mounting solutions are designed to provide easy access to the printer while freeing up valuable work surface space on your workstations. Mounts are designed for universal fit to most powered carts, non-powered carts, or wall arm mounts. With the angled design, the printer is easy to use and includes installation thumb screws. Currently have brackets for the QLN220 and LP2824 models. Contact us to develop an adapter bracket for other models.

