



Patient Security System Newsletter

HUGS—PEDZ—PASSPORT

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Myths and Legends Demystified

Once upon a time long ago, after many generations of “instructional” story telling, it came to be believed that you could get rid of a Tamper alarm by doing one of the following to the Hugs tag on the protected patient’s (baby’s) leg:

Wiggle it, Jiggle It, Whack it, Smack it. Thack it, Bump it, Thump it, Swear at it, Pray over it, Spit on it or Pull on it to make the Tamper alarm go away. Believe it or not, these “solutions” are the product of urban hospital myth and don’t work.

In other places where knowledge has grown dim, it has also been told that the only way to fix a tamper or change a band that is too tight is to replace the Band and the Tag with a new band and a Different Tag. Believe it or not, This too is the product of urban hospital myth.

The Truth : When to use the Suspend Tamper feature:

Your PSS issues a Tamper alarm anytime a strap or band has been damaged. The Tamper alarm is designed to protect a patient from having their security tag removed without permission. If an authorized staff member needs to remove a strap/band without causing a Tamper alarm, they will “Suspend Tamper,” replace the strap/band and then “Resume Tamper.” Some of the situations where you may need to Suspend Tamper are:

- If a Tamper Alarm occurs for any reason, the strap/band has been damaged. Suspend Tamper after locating

the patient & clearing the alarm so that you can replace the damaged strap/band.

- Any time you need to change or move a tag, whether to change to a different ankle or because a parent believes it to be too tight. Suspend Tamper before replacing it, remove the old strap/band, replace it with a properly adjusted strap/band and then Resume Tamper.

NOTE: The “Suspend Tamper” will count down and automatically reset when it reaches zero time left.

One of the most prevalent, persistent and painful myths, responsible for prolonged patterns of common misunderstandings that has come to be believed is that, it doesn’t matter how the tag is applied or if you ever check the fit.

Believe it or not, Tag fit matters!

The Truth:

- The best way to apply a Hugs tag is so that it “Wiggles but doesn’t rotate” around the patients ankle.
- The Hugs tag is a SECURITY DEVICE and should fit the patient with a “close” fit to maintain proper contact for skin sensing and to thwart those who may try to slip the tag off.
- Check Tag Tightness Alerts can be avoided by proper application of the tag and REGULAR ASSESSMENTS of the tag fit. Typically once per shift is enough.
- Proper application and timely assessments will reduce the Tag Loose

Alarms and reduce the steps a nurse must take in chasing after loose tags.

The final Myth is akin to a lumber jack , of old, saying “there is no need to stop and sharpen my ax.” In its modern version it has developed as . . . We don’t have the time or the money to offer additional training on the Patient “Security” System. Please notice my emphasis on the type of system we are discussing Someone has said and I agree “Prior, proper, preparation prevents pitifully poor performance.”

The Truth:

Time and effort spent on training and refreshing the training of your staff using the Hugs system will:

- Be of no cost if you have an ongoing service agreement with IMS
- Reduce the number of nuisance alarms caused by staff error or misunderstanding.
- Facilitate the reduction of alarm fatigue by minimizing alarms as the staff uses this important tool properly.
- Maximize security for patients in your care.
- Produce improved patient satisfaction by the creation of a “quiet” environment for their birthing experience.

Written by Randy Terrill of the Corporate Training Team at IMS

Specially Modified Medical Carts: Hemorrhage Cart

Save lives by having hemorrhage supplies readily available. IMS has been working hand in hand with hospitals all across the US to modify the Hemorrhage cart to fit their workflow and specific needs. Call us today to talk about your workflow and how a hemorrhage cart may help save lives in your OB. Don't Just Take Our Word For It, Take Theirs:

- [CMQCC \(California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative\)](#)
- [ACOG \(American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists\)](#)
- [AWHONN \(Association of Women’s Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses\)](#)
- [USA Today, July 27, 2018 “Hospitals Know How to Protect Mothers...”](#)