



Patient Security System Newsletter

HUGS—PEDZ—PASSPORT

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Correcting Loose Tags

Its winter, and up here in Michigan that typically means snow – and lots of it. When it snows a bunch, the National Weather Service issues either a “Winter Weather Advisory” or a “Winter Storm Warning” depending on how bad they think the storm might be. The “Advisory” typically means there is going to be some snow, but not a lot. A “Warning,” on the other hand, means major precautions need to be taken to avoid tragedy, including possibly staying off the roads. Sometimes, storms start out with an “Advisory” and turn into a major “Warning” before the night is over.

The Cause

When it comes to your Infant Security System, if you are using the Hugs or Pedz Application, you have a similar set of alerts built in to help you understand changing conditions. The Hugs Tag has a built in feature called “BabySense.” It allows the tag, when BOTH the back of the tag and the strap have contact with the patient’s skin, to monitor skin contact. The primary reason for this feature is the fact that newborn infants typically lose weight in their first days. So, even if you apply the tag correctly (wiggle, not rotate – on the outside of the ankle – round part of the tag pointing to the knee), it is likely the tag may become loose. However, “getting loose” does not always equal “is loose enough to fall off,” just like every snow storm does not deserve to have a “Winter Storm Warning.”

The Low Level Advisory

The Hugs and Pedz systems give two levels of warnings to tell you when a tag is getting

loose. The first is called a “Check Tag Tightness Event.” After the tag is applied correctly, an “on skin” message is sent to the computer. These messages are sent to the computer at regular intervals, as long as the tag stays on correctly. If the patient loses too much weight, and the tag starts to get loose, an “off skin” message is sent. When it is sent, the system sends out a “Check Tag Tightness Event” to tell staff that the tag is beginning to get loose and needs to be tightened before things escalate. At this point, you will see the alert on the computer screen and the overhead audio/visual lights may flash. All a nurse needs to do is use the computer to identify the patient, find them and gently pull either side of the band to tighten the tag, so that it will “wiggle, not rotate.” Once tight enough to allow the “on skin” message to be received, the “Check Tag Tightness Event” will automatically clear and the overhead lights will automatically turn off. There is no need to log into the computer to clear this event.

The High Level Warning

Just like a real winter storm, things can change quickly. In the case of the Patient Security System, timing is very important! The Check Tag Tightness Event is considered a low level warning to tell staff to manage something before it potentially gets worse. It’s screaming “Hey, this tag is getting to a point where it’s loose, and if not addressed, could get loose enough to fall off.” The system is built to allow nursing staff a window of time, typically about two (2) minutes, from the time the event begins, to get to the patient and tighten the tag. If the “Check Tag Tightness Event” is ignored and

is not addressed, there are two issues. First, as mentioned above, the tag may continue to get loose, and eventually come off by itself, thus leaving the patient unprotected. Or worse yet, the looseness of the tag may give an abductor an easier way to slip the tag off. Because of both of these potential scenarios, if the tag is not tightened within the time allowed, the “Event” will escalate to an “Alarm” called a “Tag Loose Alarm.” This now includes an alarm at the computer and audio/visual devices in the department may sound and flash. It is a major alarm because someone may be taking a baby!

Correcting the Issue

When you look at your monthly alarm reports, you most likely will see “Check Tag Tightness Alerts.” Some of these are to be expected, but in most cases, this is the number that is the hardest for most sites to manage well. However, it can be done. We had a large site recently work hard and greatly reduce their number by putting into place a few easy steps. First, apply the tag correctly. It should “wiggle not rotate.” Second, leadership should inspect random tags and address mistakes with staff. Third, during normal assessments, gently check and tighten the strap, as needed. Finally, respond quickly to the “Check Tag Tightness Events.” Of greater concern, is to not let them escalate to “Tag Loose Alarms.” This puts the patient in greater danger, just like a “Winter Storm Warning” means greater danger to the general public.

As you work on your alarms, goal one is to eliminate ALL escalation to “Tag Loose Alarms.” Goal two is to significantly lower the overall number of “Check tag tightness Events.” You can do it!

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Did You Know?

- IMS can outfit your facility with [tech integrated medical carts?](#)
- How about [fetal monitor carts?](#)
- Have you heard about the [Bathinet?](#) It’s a game changer for bathing infants.
- Finally, we offer a [full range of bassinets from single, twins to so much more.](#)

