

The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goal on Alarm Management: How Do We Get Started? Webinar – September 25, 2013

Key Points Checklist

- ☑ Dates for compliance with The Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goal on Alarm Management:
 - As of July 1, 2014, leaders establish alarm system safety as a hospital priority
 - During 2014, identify the most important alarm signals to manage
 - As of January 1, 2016, establish policies and procedures for managing the alarms identified above and educate staff and licensed independent practitioners about the purpose and proper operation of alarm systems for which they are responsible
- ☑ Link to National Patient Safety Goal on Alarm Management:
<http://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/18/PREPUB-06-25-2013-NPSG060101.pdf>
- ☑ Take a proactive system approach
 - Assemble a multidisciplinary team
 - Review recent events and near-misses
 - Analyze your current system, including culture, infrastructure, practices, and technology
 - Identify failures and determine causes
 - Develop realistic strategies to minimize risk
 - Carefully plan for implementation
 - Monitor the effectiveness of strategies and modify as needed
 - Provide feedback to staff
 - Celebrate your success
- ☑ Deal with challenges and barriers to implement improved alarm management
 - Measurement of alarm status
 - Technology limitations
 - Competing priorities
 - Overwhelming number of devices with alarms
 - Financial constraints
- ☑ Implement easy strategies first – consider:
 - Change electrocardiographic electrodes daily
 - Prepare skin properly before applying electrodes
 - Change telemetry batteries daily
 - Develop plan to customize physiologic alarms
 - Implement initial and ongoing education
 - Consider the appropriateness of the use of devices with alarms
- ☑ Always focus on goal to make alarm management safer
 - Minimize patient safety vulnerabilities and reduce risk
 - Continually improve effectiveness and efficiency of alarm management

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Key Points Checklist compiled by Marjorie Funk, PhD, RN, FAHA, FAAN (Moderator)