

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT: CLINICAL ALARMS RISK ASSESSMENT

Location of Equipment:

Prepared by:

Date:

Equipment Type	Is the Alarm audible? Y/N	Able to discern the alarm? Y/N	Can alarm be Silenced? Y/N	Can Alarm Volume be Adjusted or Reset? Y/N	Location of the alarm in proximity to nurse's station? How far away; distance in ft	Amount of Alarm Errors?	Has Staff Training been provided? Y/N	Severity Rating (SR) likely result if the alarm is not attended to by staff on a timely basis	Probability (P) an inappropriate staff response after the alarm has activated	Assessment Score (AS)
Bedside Physiological Monitor										
Ventilator										
Blood Warmer										
Infant Warmer										
Anesthesia Unit										
Apnea Monitor										
Chair Occupancy Alarm										
Defibrillator										
Electrosurgical Unit										
Feeding Pump										
Hypo/Hydrothermia Unit										
Intra-aortic Balloon Pump										
NIBP Unit										
Pulse Oximeter										
Tourniquet										
Bathroom Emergency Call										
Code Blue Call										
Infant Abduction Alarm										
Nurse Call										
Line Isolation Monitor										

1. The equipment types listed are taken from multiple examples noted in ECRI, AAMI and State Pt Safety Foundation references. Organizations are encouraged to look at their master inventories of medical equipment for application of this basic assessment tool.

2. In order to determine the Severity Rating, add total Yes/No answers, utilize any error data to determine a Severity Rating (5 – Death 4 – Serious injury, likely to be permanent 3 – Major injury, possible long-term effects 2 – Minor injury, not likely to have long-term effects 1 – No injury)

3. Determine the Probability of occurrence related to Severity.

4. The Assessment Score (AS) is SR x P.....Prioritize development and implementation of an action plan starting with the items that have the highest score relative to TJC NPSG compliance.

Sources for Development: ECRI Clinical Alarms, AAMI Clinical Alarm Summit, 2011, Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority, the Johns Hopkins Patient Safety Institute, TJC NSPG Clinical Alarms