

Improving Patient Safety Through Better Alarm Management

Project Charter

As part of performance improvement at the hospital, we would like to evaluate secondary alarm notification on the number of alarms generated, the quality of those alarms, the impact on nursing productivity and job satisfaction, and, most importantly, determine how this can improve outcomes

Business Theme:

Organizational commitment to Patient Safety

What is Wrong:

Alarm Fatigue results from excessive alarms that don't necessarily require intervention.

Impact:

The uncertainty and frustration caused by Alarm Fatigue reduce nursing effectiveness and contribute to slower response to critical events, missed interventions, reduction in safety, increase in LOS and cost of care, and presumably reduced staff retention

Benefits:

Short term— address above issues

Long term— improve quality of care globally

Goals:

- a. Develop standards for alarm defaults that improve response and improve safety

Project Endpoints

Hospital:

- a. Improve response to alarms
- b. Create safer environment
- c. Better conditions for nurses and patients
- d. Publish paper highlighting efforts and marketing the effects

Vendors:

- a. Develop better recommendations around alarm management & default setting
- b. Produce statistically sound study and associated white paper for publication and/or marketing use

Project Scope

In Scope

Pre study—define methods & process

Study pt 1— effects of alarm default changes

Out of Scope:

RTLS

