A timely response to alarm fatigue

Philips IntelliSpace Alarm Reporting

The clock is ticking. As of January 1, 2014, phase one of the Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goal on Alarm Management has been in effect, and with good reason. The ECRI Institute identified alarm hazards as the number one health technology hazard for 2014.[1] Non-actionable alarms can adversely impact patient care, contribute to alarm fatigue, and strain hospital resources.

Now is the time for healthcare institutions to gain an understanding of their unique alarm environments, identifying alarm-related problems and creating alarm management solutions. When the Joint Commission's phase two begins on January 1, 2016, hospitals will need to have specific alarm management policies and procedures in place. Phase two guidelines also call for educating staff as well as implementing protocols for alarm reporting and data management best practices.

Fortunately, Philips IntelliSpace Alarm Reporting can be used with Philips IntelliVue Information Center (PIIC and PIIC iX) to provide alarm magement support for hospitals. These reporting tools provide an easy and direct path to the information caregivers need to reduce alarm-related risks, avoid inefficiencies, and comply with Joint Commission requirements.

Key advantages

- Supports the Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goal on Alarm Management
- Assists with reducing alarm fatigue, non-actionable alarms, sentinel events, and near misses attributed to mismanaged alarms
- Helps address the financial costs attributed to nursing overload
- Enhances the quality of care and hospital environment for patients, staff, and families

PHILIPS

The National Patient Safety Goals are making alarm management a top priority for hospitals.

The challenge of alarm fatigue

Philips IntelliSpace Alarm Reporting provides a holistic approach to alarm management that can lead to streamlined workflow for hospitals while encouraging a healing environment for patients. In her paper "Monitor Alarm Fatigue: An Integrative Review," Maria Cvach estimates that staff, patients, and families on medical units may be exposed to up to 700 alarms per day.[2] This is exactly the kind of work environment that can leave caregivers feeling overwhelmed, distracted, and even desensitized. In fact, a recent Philips audit showed that nurses may be exposed to up to 3.7 alarms per minute.[3]

False-positive, non-actionable, and clinically irrelevant alarms can drain staff resources through lost nursing time. Ultimately, this may jeopardize patient care. According to the ECRI Institute, 216 reports of alarm-related deaths were filed with the FDA between 2005 and 2010.[4] By improving alarm management, one can expect that patients are more likely to receive the care and attention they need in a potentially less stressful environment.

An end-to-end solution

With Philips IntelliSpace Alarm Reporting in place, it's possible to reduce the amount of non-actionable alarms and decrease the overall number of alarms delivered to caregivers. This is made possible by analyzing raw data rather than using a pieced-together approach, and by providing the ability to perform simulations to assess the impact of alarm setting changes. Philips IntelliSpace Alarm Reporting reveals a big picture perspective that encourages clinical workflow improvements that can positively affect the quality of the patient care setting.

Our easy-to-implement alarm reporting tools can be customized to meet the needs of your institution. Philips IntelliSpace Alarm Reporting can help you understand which alarms are being triggered and why. Even more, by collaborating with Philips, you can benefit from our years of expertise and use captured data to create the response protocols that will serve your unique needs – and support ongoing Joint Commission mandates.

A team of experts

Working with Philips, you have access to a highly experienced team of specialists who will help decipher the story behind your data. Philips clinicians are available to consult with your team to examine alarm-reporting data in ways that can lead to improved procedures and care.

As an additional option to your alarm management support, Philips Healthcare Transformation Services can provide strategic department-wide or enterprise-wide consulting services to help you reach your noise reduction and alarm management goals. We can provide comprehensive data analytics, assess alarm and noise levels, develop a custom alarm and noise management strategy, implement change initiatives, monitor results, and recommend further changes if needed.

From assessment to improvement, implementation to monitoring, our team brings the holistic approach and expert guidance that can help your team overcome the challenges of alarm fatigue, meet compliance goals, and thrive in the age of big data.

1. Health Devices Top 10 Health Technology Hazards for 2014, Adapted from Vol. 42, Issue 11, Nov. 2013. ECRI Institute.
2. Cvach, M., "Monitor Alarm Fatigue: An Integrative Review", Biomedical Instrumentation & Technology, July/Aug 2012, 268-277
3. Source: Philips, data on file.
4. https://www.ecri.org/ Forms/Pages/Alarm_Safety_Resource.aspx

Please visit www.philips.com/alarmmanagement