Impact Of Clinical Alarms On Patient Safety

Presented by Task Force Co-chairs: Josh Clark, M.D., University of Vermont, Burlington • Yedin David, Ph.D., Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, TX

ABSTRACT

Clinical alarms are management of immediate or potential adverse patient outcomes. Alarms must be accurate, audible, and provide useful information, yet, alarm fatigue and inappropriate alarms result in a loss of their effectiveness as a primary safety intervention. This loss of effectiveness can be attributed to the use of inappropriate alarm settings, timing, or lack of action in response to alarm events. The goal of this project was to improve the efficiency of alarms in the healthcare setting, with specific focus on improving alarm-related patient safety outcomes.

PROJECT INITIATIVE

AIM: Improve patient safety by identifying issues and opportunities for improvement in clinical alarm design, implementation, and usage.

AIMS:
1. Understand the current state of alarm management in patient care and identify opportunities for improvement.
2. Develop tools and strategies to improve alarm management and patient safety outcomes.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

1. Conduct a literature review to identify best practices for alarm management.
2. Develop a survey to assess current alarm management practices.
3. Conduct focused interviews with healthcare providers to gather insights on alarm management.
4. Develop and implement strategies to improve alarm management.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

1. Improved alarm management practices.
2. Decreased number of alarm-related patient safety events.
3. Increased awareness and knowledge among healthcare providers about alarm management.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Implement evidence-based alarm management guidelines.
2. Utilize technology to improve alarm management.
3. Educate healthcare providers about the importance of alarm management.
4. Conduct regular audits to monitor alarm management practices.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

1. Conduct ongoing monitoring of alarm management practices to ensure continued improvement.
2. Collaborate with other healthcare organizations to share best practices.
3. Conduct research to further understand the impact of alarm management on patient safety.

EDUCATION

1. Develop educational materials to support the implementation of alarm management strategies.
2. Provide ongoing training to healthcare providers on alarm management.

MISSION

1. Improve alarm management to enhance patient safety.
2. Reduce the burden of alarm-related patient safety events.
3. Enhance awareness and knowledge among healthcare providers about alarm management.