

Patient Identification is a critical but often overlooked component of patient safety.

With over 98,000 preventable deaths and 770,000 adverse events due to medical errors each year, many people underestimate the impact of choosing the right bar-coded wristband solution. They underestimate its importance as a critical component of their patient safety program. Yet the right bar-coded wristband can directly reduce medical errors in a significant and measurable way!

As you are well aware, patient identification errors have a significant negative impact on patient safety. What many people often overlook is that one of the biggest – and avoidable -- contributors to Patient ID errors is caused by “unbanded” patients. Patient ID errors (including unbanded patients) contribute to the following patient safety problems:

- Incompatible blood transfusions
- Medication errors or delays
- Allergy reactions to medications
- Surgical misadventures
- Mistaken or delayed diagnosis from patient specimens that are mis-labeled or not labeled

Additionally, patient ID errors contribute to the following problems which I’m sure are high on your facility’s list of things to address and improve:

- Increased exposure to potential litigation
- Increased length of stay (LOS)
- Wasted time for hospital staff as they try to determine the identity of unbanded patients
- Lost revenue – for example if you are not bar-coding your patient ID wristbands or you do not have a 100% “first read rate” from your barcodes, you are losing revenue. (How many glucometer charges were unable to be charged to a patient --or to the right patient - due to the mis-keying of data?)

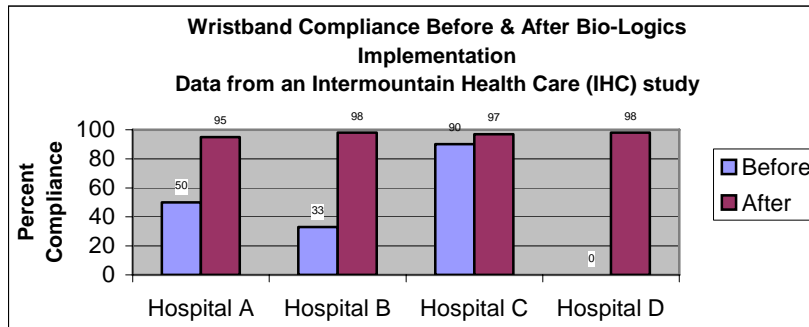
All bar-coded wristbands are NOT the same.

When selecting a bar-coded wristband please make sure you consider whether or not your choice will eliminate the primary reasons for patient ID errors:

1

Removing and not replacing a patient’s wristband.

- What is your compliance rate %? (How many patients in your facility are not wearing a wristband right now – the answer might surprise and shock you.)
- Does your current wristband offer 24x7 Patient Identification™? *Studies conclusively show that because the Bio-Logics band is the only patient ID band that can be immediately re-applied at bedside, facilities who implement it demonstrate immediate and significant improvements in compliance (the % of patients who are banded at any one time).* Data reported in the 'Patient ID Error Prevention' breakout session at the 2001 CLMA meeting.



2

Confusion caused by patients wearing multiple wristbands which can be overlooked or not replaced, if cut-off.

- How many wristbands do your patients wear? Admitting band, blood ID band, alert band(s) such as Allergy, DNR, Fall Risk, Name Alert, etc.
- Do these multiple bands cause confusion as to whether a patient does or does not have an alert condition, or if a band was cut-off and not replaced?
- Can your staff easily verify (and update) allergy alert information as part of the patient ID band at bedside?



Because Bio-Logics integrates the blood band and alerts directly into the primary admission band, there is never any confusion or second guessing – all alerts are in one place ... easy to see and replace ... never to be missed. Plus, one band vs. many is MUCH more cost effective!

3

Barcodes that cannot be easily read.

- Can every patient ID barcode be read on the first scan, 100% of the time for all patients (even patients with small wrists)?



Because all Bio-Logics wristbands maintain the barcode on a flat surface, "first read rates" are significantly higher than with any other band on the market today – guaranteed!

When patient safety matters most - let St. John be your Patient Identification Solutions Partner!

The St. John Companies carries the broadest selection of patient identification wristbands available ANYWHERE (Conf-ID-dent™, TabBand™, thermal and laser printable bands) and is your only source for the Bio-Logics™ brand and its exclusive *24x7 Patient Identification™* solutions. Let the patient safety experts at St. John help you choose the right patient ID wristband solution to meet your specific needs, application and budget. In addition to providing the patient ID solution that best meets your needs, our patient ID expertise enables us to be the only vendor who will provide you with:

1. Comprehensive on-site installation and training. We will work with your Education Department to design an education program that includes both policy and product training for all staff impacted by the implementation.
2. A patient identification “Policies and Procedures” audit to help you revise your current patient ID policies to reflect the implementation of the new system, along with recommendations on how to incorporate patient ID best practices that will improve patient safety.
3. A post implementation compliance audit to verify the successful implementation of *24x7 Patient Identification™* and other best practice recommendations.

Let's get started on implementing the best and most cost effective patient identification solution for you. Please don't hesitate to contact us for answers to questions or for more information. We are looking forward to working with you.

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