



Advisory: Green and Pink Wristbands

The Missouri Center for Patient Safety (MOCPS) has received several inquiries regarding the standardization of additional colors of wristbands in response to the success of Banding Together – *for patient safety* implementation to standardize the use of red for allergy risk, yellow for fall risk and purple for DNR.

Particular interest has been expressed regarding the addition of green bands for latex allergy and pink bands for a restricted extremity. The Center’s Hospital Advisory Committee and Wristband Team have researched the issue, resulting in the following findings and recommendation.

Research Results

- Only four (4) states have standardized the use of bands for latex allergy and restricted extremity - those states are standardizing by using green and pink bands respectively.
- The initial MOCPS wristband survey indicated only 12% of Missouri hospitals and nursing homes were using green bands for latex allergy – there was no indication of pink bands being used.
- The American Society of Risk Managers recommends the standardization of only the three (3) original colors.
- There is concern among hospitals about patients wearing too many bands.
- There is interest by a small number of facilities in standardizing the use of bands for latex allergy and restricted extremity.

Recommendation

Based on the findings of our research, the following recommendation is made by the MOCPS and its Wristband Team:

For organizations that desire standardization of colored wristbands for latex allergy and/or restricted extremity, consideration should be given to using green bands for latex allergy and pink bands for restricted extremity.

