LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER - SHREVEPORT

CLINICAL ALARM SYSTEMS

Purpose:

To establish guidelines for monitoring clinical alarm systems on hospital equipment.

Policy:

1. Maintenance and Testing of Alarm Systems
   User verification of proper alarm settings and functions are part of the equipment set-up recommended by all equipment manufacturers. Biomedical Engineering will test alarm systems on clinical equipment during periodic maintenance inspections and during technician rounds. Equipment with nonfunctional alarm settings, whether visual or audible, will be sent to Biomedical Engineering for repair.

2. Appropriate Settings
   Alarm settings are activated appropriately according to area/unit specific criteria or according to the patient’s medical condition/activity level.

3. Alarm Audibility
   Alarms are sufficiently audible with respect to distances and competing noise within the unit.

Alarms are noted on the following equipment but are not limited to:
- Pulse Oximeters
- Telemetry Monitors
- Ventilators
- Infusion Pumps
- Ventilator Heaters
- SCD Hose Machine
- Warming Blanket (Bear Huggers)
- Specialized Beds
- PCA Pumps
- Kangaroo Feeding Pumps
- CVVH Machines
- Echo Machines
- Balloon Pumps
- Anesthesia Machines
- Transport Monitors
D-Fib Packs
Call Bell
CCO Monitor
Portable Blood Pressure/Temperature Machine

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Administrator

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Date

Approved by Clinical Board: 1/21/03
Written: 1/03
Revised: