TOP 6 WAYS TO AVOID ALARM FATIGUE
WITH SECURE TEXTING ALERTS

ALARM FATIGUE IS RANKED BY THE ECRI AS THE NUMBER ONE HEALTH TECHNOLOGY CONCERN FOR 2014.

With the overwhelming amount of alarms occurring daily, clinicians deal with excess noise pollution. This results in hundreds of alarms being ignored, which puts patients' health at risk. Switching to a secure texting solution eliminates noise pollution and connects clinicians instantly through their mobile devices. Learn how to help your healthcare organization prevent alarm fatigue with these Top 6 ways secure texting improves clinical communication and alarm responsiveness.

1

Avoid alarm annoyance

Many clinicians will turn off an alarm after noticing that the patient is not in immediate danger. Even non-life threatening situations need to be monitored by staff members. An influx of constant alarms throughout the day can cause staff members to tune out concerns that could not be related to their patient. Secure text messaging notifies clinicians directly through their mobile device. These alerts reduce overhead noise and prevent clinicians from becoming desensitized to alarms, allowing clinical staff to quickly administer care without the confusion of multiple patient alarms.

2

Request delivery notifications

Current processes do not give clinical staff the ability to confirm alarms are answered and resolved. An alarm could go unnoticed for thirty minutes without a clinician responding to the patient. Secure texting solutions offer delivery responses after each message is received, confirming delivery and receipt. This allows for better alert management and prevents alarms from going unnoticed. With alert delivery notifications, clinicians are held accountable for ignoring alerts and not following up properly.

3

Reduce overhead noise

One of the biggest questions addressed in the new Client Alert regulations put in place this year was how to reduce overhead noise in clinical settings. Now healthcare organizations are required to create a peaceful environment for their patients. Hospital staff members are exposed to an average of over 100 alarms per bed daily. This creates a hectic environment for both the clinician and patient. Secure texting eliminates overhead noise caused by alarms and paging systems with the ability to communicate quickly and instantly through staff members' mobile devices.

4

Understand your healthcare organization's architectural strategy

Larger facilities need different communication strategies than smaller bed practices. Understanding how and what is needed to simplify and improve your existing communication strategy can greatly reduce alarm fatigue. Begin by learning what your organization's care model is, then map out each staff member's individual responsibility and what will be communicated between departmnets. Once you understand the needs of your staff, you can easily select a communication tool such as secure texting instantly deliver alerts to multiple staff members no matter their device or location.

5

Know your organization's technological limitations

Many organizations do not have the budget capacity to purchase state of the art alarm systems or continuously stay up to date with software updates. This causes technological malfunctions in alarm systems that can result in patient safety risks. By implementing a secure texting solution, clinicians can use their own personal device to receive alert notifications and communicate instantly with other staff members. Secure texting mirrors the easy interface and features of SMS, allowing staff members to quickly use the solution and integrate it into their communication strategy.

6

Be selective of what constitutes as an emergency alert

There is no way to differentiate between what type of attention a patient needs when an alarm goes off. An allergy alert sounds exactly the same as a heart attack alarm. This causes clinicians to ignore some alarms if they do not think the issue at hand is pressing. Secure texting allows clinicians to describe the alert in detail and even allows clinicians to send images of an x-ray to help better address the issue. When faced with over a thousand alerts a day, clinicians need as much detail as possible to help prioritize their time.

Clinicians are quickly becoming desensitized to alarm alerts and ignoring critical patient alert notifications. To help clinicians prioritize alarms and improve patient care, organizations can use secure texting. Switch to a secure texting solution today to implement a successful strategy against alarm fatigue.