

Attitudes To Alarm Fatigue and Alarm Management Tools Hospitals Want: Hospital Responses to Survey on Opioid Management

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Introduction: The Joint Commission 2014 national patient safety goal is being implemented and reinforces the defined problem called alarm management that is caused from clinicians experiencing alarm fatigue.

Methods: During March and April 2013, almost 200 hospitals in 40 states were surveyed about their attitudes to alarm fatigue and alarm management tools and training they would like to have.

Results: Alarm fatigue is an issue that about 90% of hospitals are concerned about. The survey results show that alarm fatigue is impacting work flow and patient safety. Although hospitals that continuously electronically monitor their patients reported experiencing a reduction in adverse events, costs, and expenditures, hospitals said that they would use more monitoring technology if alarm fatigue was not an issue. Moreover, when asked what tools that would like to have to help manage alarms better, hospitals said that would like better tools and training to tackle this issue - about 70% would like a single indicator that incorporates multiple physiological parameters (like respiratory rate, oxygenation, and end tidal Co₂) and approximately half would like recommendations to more easily assess patients.