Healthcare Organization Commitment

Contact Details

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Commitment Details

Commitment Name
Total Patient Monitor Alarm Load Reduction of all Inpatient Units in Long-term Trend.

Participants
Andrew Currie
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What Patient Safety Challenge does your Commitment address?

Commitment Start Date
01/06/2017
How Many Hospitals Will This Commitment Represent
1

Commitment Summary
The Johns Hopkins Hospital has taken initiatives to reduce hazardous situations related to patient monitor alarms since 2006 and has had a significant improvement in patient care due to alarm management.
The alarm management efforts at The Johns Hopkins Hospital has implemented the following improvements in patient monitor systems:
1. A hospital-wide drop in patient monitor alarm rates
2. In medical progressive care units show a 43% decline in high priority alarms
3. 24 to 74 percent drop of alarm on six ICUs and IMCs due to adjusting default parameter settings.
Currently, we are working towards the long term trend reduction of total patient monitor alarm loads.

Commitment Description & Detail
A long term collection of total alarm quantity baseline measurements, a daily total alarm report, appropriate alarm settings and an alarm improvement plan for each unit can provide preventable patient harm from total patient monitor alarms. We have established the total alarm load reduction of all inpatient units as an achievable goal and we are committed to scaling this work to other hospitals and health systems.

Action Plan
Reduction of total monitor alarm load. We developed an evidence-based, unit-specific, parameter-specific daily report for all units in The Johns Hopkins Hospital. Long term monitor alarm data is stored for further analysis. Nurse Engagement An almost real-time daily alarm report will be sent out to unit nurse manager who will take action on alarm reduction based on the bed number in the daily report. In a three-month period, we will send out total alarm quantities in seven-day intervals within these three months. A negative slope value of the trend line will indicate alarm load reduction.

Commitment Timeline
We are committed to ensure that all inpatient units have total alarm load reductions as a long term trend by 2020.