Is your (beep) alarm management (beep) program (beep) in place?

Let 3M help you set up a customized Alarms Reduction Initiative Program for your facility.
According to ECRI, alarm hazards have been the #1 or #2 health technology hazard since 2008. No wonder alarm fatigue has become both a work environment and a patient safety issue.

Alarm fatigue is a condition where caregivers become overloaded and desensitized to the constant sound of clinical alarms. From 2005-2008, there were 566 patient deaths related to clinical alarms, according to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

As a result, the Joint Commission has required all healthcare facilities to have an alarm management program in place by January 1, 2016.

At least part of your program should be a goal to reduce the number of false clinical alarms your nursing staff hears. 3M can help. We can help you look at factors that may help you get the quality trace and ECG reading you’re looking for.

3M’s Alarms Reduction Initiative Program can help you create a custom plan for your facility.

Know the effect proper technique can have on alarms.
Reducing some monitoring alarms may be as simple as improving electrode application technique. 3M can provide information on how to prep the patient’s skin, as well as how to apply and remove electrodes.

Learn how to troubleshoot commonly seen artifact that can create false alarms.
Have you seen the trace below in your facility? The most likely culprit is muscle movement. 3M can help you understand what different artifacts mean and give you advice on how to troubleshoot ECG traces. Ask about our FREE 3M™ Red Dot™ Electrodes Troubleshooting Guide.

Evaluate your ECG options.
Do your electrodes cost too much? Are your leadwires popping off at the most inconvenient times? Ask us to evaluate your product options and offer a solution that works best for your facility.
Charlene Haley, MHA, MSN, ACCNS-AG, CCRN, Brandy M. Grant, MSN, RN Nurse Manager, Christopher George, Bio Med Engineer, Lancaster General Health, Lancaster, PA.

Finding the alarm culprit: ECG monitoring.
In 2014, 3M worked with Charlene Haley, Clinical Nurse Specialist at Lancaster General Hospital, to promote proper skin preparation as part of their monitoring alarms reduction initiative.
During baseline alarm data collection, they found that ECG monitoring produced the highest number of alarms.

Championing change.
Charlene believed that proper skin preparation, including proper electrode application, could significantly reduce the number of alarms and was a strong champion for instituting facility-wide change.

Prior to implementing 3M’s Alarm Fatigue product bundle and electrode application practices, the number of ECG monitoring alarms were measured. When implementation day arrived, the nurse educators were trained on the technical details of proper skin preparation and its benefits. Then the real work began.

Training leads to success.
Every shift on every unit that used ECG monitoring electrodes was in-serviced over a two-day period to insure that all staff had been educated. This included training on proper electrode application technique.
Over the next few days, trainers continued to drive the change by periodically monitoring each unit’s adoption of the new policy. The number of monitoring alarms continued to be measured and the initiative’s impact was impressive. The number of alarms, in one of the units that had taken the change to heart, was reduced an astounding 77% in both arrhythmia and parameter alarms and a 67% reduction in technical alarms.

Several months later, one nurse who happened to be pulled to a different department for a shift where the change wasn’t taken as seriously was amazed by the difference. In the nurse’s words, “My pager wouldn’t stop going off the entire time. It was constantly going off. I was truly getting really frustrated with the pager. Then I come back home and realized the difference. Thank you.”

3M product bundle used at Lancaster: 2560 (left) and 2236 (right).
3M Patient Monitoring Products to Support Your Alarm Fatigue Initiatives

**Description** | **Product No.** | **Packaging**
---|---|---
**All Inclusive – Built-in abrader, larger gel well, 5-day wear time**

3M™ Red Dot™ Foam Monitoring Electrode
1.6 inch × 1.36 inch (4 cm × 3,5 cm)
- Radiolucent
- Sticky Gel
- Built-in Abrader
2570 | 1000 electrodes/case, 10/strip, 5 strip/bag, 20 bag/case
2570-5 | 1000 electrodes/case, 5/strip, 1 strip/bag, 200 bag/case

Foam electrode with 2236 Trace Prep – Large gel well, 5-day wear time

3M™ Red Dot™ Foam Monitoring Electrode
1.6 inch × 1.36 inch (4 cm × 3,5 cm)
- Sticky Gel
Trace Prep .7 inch × 196 inch (18,1 mm × 5 m)
2560 | 1000 electrodes/case, 10/strip, 5 strip/bag, 20 bag/case
2236 | 1 roll, 36 roll/case

Repositionable electrode + 2236 Trace Prep – Conductive hydrogel adhesive, repositionable, removal tab

3M™ Red Dot™ Repositionable Monitoring Electrode
1.56 inch × 1.25 inch (4 cm × 3,2 cm)
- Radiolucent
- Full surface conductive adhesive
- Standard (2660-5) or Strong (2670-5) Adhesion
Trace Prep .7 inch × 196 inch (18,1 mm × 5 m)
2660-5 | 1000 electrodes/case, 5/strip, 1 strip/bag, 200 bag/case
2670-5 | 1000 electrodes/case, 5/strip, 1 strip/bag, 200 bag/case
2236 | 1 roll, 36 roll/case

Disposable leadwires – include with any of the above products

Consult with your 3M representative to select the optimal disposable leadwire for your monitor 25 each/case

**References:**
4. 3M Data on file.

**Learn more with these helpful 3M Red Dot electrode links:**

**What is Alarm Fatigue?**

**How to Troubleshoot ECG Artifacts**

**How to Apply and Remove ECG Electrodes**

**Sign up for the 3M Alarm Fatigue Reduction Program**