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2007 Standardizing Communication for Patient Risk Factors and Special Needs

PRODUCED BY: New Jersey Hospital Association

Color-coded wristbands are used in an array of hues to communicate conditions such as fall risk, allergies, DNR, restricted extremity, elopement risk and dietary restrictions. Colored-cause wristbands, such as the yellow “Live Strong” bands can be misinterpreted as a hospital-issued color-coded condition wristband. The availability of numerous cause wristbands, coupled with varying definitions of patient alert bands across the continuum of care can be confusing for caregivers and threaten patient safety. Although we do not endorse the exclusive use of wristbands to alert caregivers of a patient’s special needs, providers do agree that when used, there is a lack of consistency in wristband meanings and in how they are applied. In New Jersey, the New Jersey Hospital Association, in partnership

with the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, initiated an effort to standardize communication for patient risk factors and special needs before patient harm occurs. The *Standardizing Color Codes for Patient Risk Factors Implementation Tool Kit* includes educational information to assist healthcare providers as they transition their color code system. Included in the kit are caregiver posters, sample policy language, a slide presentation, handouts and FAQ for staff training, and a patient and family education brochure. Whether you are a hospital, assisted living, long term care or home care provider, this valuable resource is here to help you transition your organization’s patient risk color-code system, and educate your staff, patients, clients, residents and families.



358-NJHA-450821-32	Standardizing Color Codes for Patient Risk Factors - Complete Tool Kit	\$50 Per Unit
363-NJHA-450821-32	Standardizing Color Codes for Patient Risk Factors - Caregiver Educational Posters and FAQs	\$30 for 10
364-NJHA-450821-32	Standardizing Color Codes for Patient Risk Factors - Patient and Family Education Brochure	\$20 for 100



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