

Alarm Safety Practices

Abstract

Clinical alarm safety is a global patient safety concern exacerbated by the complexity of physiologic monitors and the prevalence of false / nonactionable alarms leading to alarm fatigue, the leading cause of alarm related harm. To assess clinician practices in alarm management, the Healthcare Technology Foundation (HTF) conducted national surveys in 2006, 2011, and 2014; the current survey is a follow up to the previous surveys.

A team of alarm safety experts has updated the survey to reflect the current clinical environment. This survey, which will be distributed internationally, aims to define current practices and challenges in alarm management. By understanding current practices, we plan to provide clinicians with strategies to improve alarm safety.

The survey consists of an online questionnaire designed for clinicians and engineers who interact with alarm-producing technology. It includes work related demographic and alarm related information, with Likert scale and free text questions. No personal information will be collected. The estimated completion time is about 15 minutes. Participants can access the survey via a QR code or direct link. The survey will be available for 3 months. The survey will be available in 9 languages. There is no risk to the participants. The benefits will be indirect, as the results will define opportunities for practice improvement with the implementation of evidence based alarm safety practices.

This investigator initiated research through HTF will collect data in Google Docs and analyze it with NVivo software. The data analysis will be supported by Philips Medical. The survey has exempt approval from the University of Pennsylvania IRB and will be distributed to several professional organizations, including the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN), the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS), the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses (WFCC), the American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC), and the Global Clinical Engineering Alliance (GCEA), ensuring broad participation from relevant stakeholders.

By comparing current findings with previous data, this survey seeks to evaluate the need for practice changes and highlight international trends. The data will direct the need for evidence based strategies to enhance alarm safety management and patient safety.

Link to the survey:

www.globalcea.org/alarmsurvey