

Alarm Fatigue: Decreasing Telemetry Alarms by Setting Parameters

Amandeep Mann, Family Nurse Practitioner Program
Washington State University

Abstract

Alarm fatigue has become a concern for patient safety and is considered one of the top ten health care technology hazards. Telemetry alarms are one of the most frequent alarms that the nurses have to attend to while providing care to the clients. Literature review indicates reviewing the alarm parameters, educating the nursing staff, and using certain strategies can reduce clinically non-significant telemetry alarms thus alarm fatigue. The quality improvement project at CHI Franciscan helped in reducing 48% of telemetry alarms in a mid-size facility by changing the alarm parameters. Nursing education on evidence-based strategies can further assist in reducing clinically non-significant alarms.

Key words: cardiac alarm, telemetry alarm, alarm fatigue, cardiac monitoring, default settings, alarm parameters