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Less is More for Patient Safety

Over five years there were 138 reported hospital deaths related to alarm system failures, including from nurses and doctors that ignore them, turn them off or just stop hearing them. This is called alarm fatigue. Studies show up to 90% of alarms are false and 99% had no impact on the patient’s care.

So the temptation for doctors and nurses is to ignore the beeps. This means some very important alarms get missed. To turn this danger around, some hospitals are reducing alarms with no adverse effect on patients by changing the alarms to visual signals nurses see and by tailoring alarms to individual patients. In the case of this technology, less is more for patient safety.


Presented daily by Twila Brase, President, Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.

The Health Freedom Minute is now heard in 42 states: Mornings M-Th at AM1280 (The Patriot) in MN and 91.5 AM WHKC (FreedomFM) in OH, afternoons on American Family Radio, and daily on the Bott Radio Network.