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A Nurse's Narrative: Bridging the Gap in Patient Safety through the Lens of Clinical Alarm Fatigue

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Conflict of Interest Disclosure

I, Yulianna Fedorchak, certify that, to the best of my knowledge, no affiliation or relationship of a financial nature with a commercial interest organization has significantly affected my views on the subject which is being presented.

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Learner Outcomes/Objectives

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of clinical alarm fatigue, including its definition, causes, and implications for patient safety
- Recognize how clinical alarm fatigue affects the daily practice of nurses, including its impact on workflow, decision-making, and patient care
- Discuss possible applications of learned knowledge to legal nurse consulting

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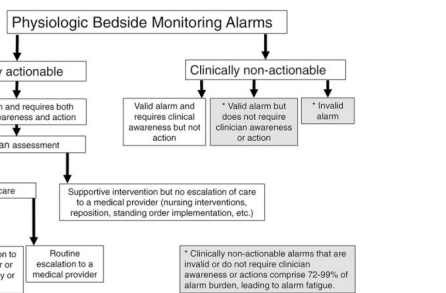
Types of clinical alarms in healthcare

- Bed/chair alarms
- Cardiac Monitor Alarms
- Ventilator Alarms
- Infusion Pump Alarms
- Fetal Monitor Alarms
- Code Blue Alarms
- Call Bells
- Fire Alarms

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Causes of alarm fatigue

- Patient factors
- Sensors
- Alarm state recognition
- Alarm pathways
- Clinician factors

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Patient implications



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Types of Events Impacted by Alarm Fatigue

- Compromised fall safety
- Missed arrhythmias/vital sign abnormality
- Wrong drug administration
- Air emboli
- Fetal Demise
- Delay in initiation of resuscitation efforts

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Effects on Healthcare Worker Well-being

- Increased stress and anxiety
- Desensitization to alarms/impaired decision making
- Reduced job satisfaction/burnout
- Decreased attention and concentration
- Sleep disturbances
- Emotional toll from adverse events

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Best practices in alarm response

- Appropriate training and protocols for responding to alarms
- Technology solutions and techniques to reduce non-actionable alarms
- Importance of maintaining vigilance



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Applications in the LNC world

- What to look for in the chart?
 - Errors in documentation
 - Missed warning signs of adverse events
- Audit Trails
 - Alarm audit trails
 - Documentation audit trails



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Policies and regulations

- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI)
 - Technical information reports - TIR66, TIR71
- Occupational Safety And Health Administration (OSHA)
 - 29 CFR 1910.38
- The Joint Commission (TJC)
 - NPSG.06.01.01
- International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
 - IEC 60601-1-8




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Questions???






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