
**(insert name of
hospital/logo)**

**is proud to be a
supporter of the
Color-Coded Patient
Alert Wristband
Standardization
Project in Tennessee**



**The Tennessee Hospital
Association, Tennessee Center
for Patient Safety and
Tennessee hospitals are
undertaking an effort voluntary
to improve patient safety by
adopting standard wristband
colors.**

**Standardizing the colors of
alert wristbands across the
state– and the nation– helps
staff members do their jobs
better and safer.**

**Nurses and others no longer
have to remember colors or
symbols unique to a specific
hospital. This is a simple,
effective way to reduce errors
and improve patient outcomes.**

**Understanding the
Color-Coded
Patient Alert
Wristband
Standardization
Project in
Tennessee**



Statewide Patient Safety Initiative

To improve patient safety in the delivery of health care is a goal for this and every hospital. One of the many ways this hospital works to prevent potential errors is the use of standardized color-coded patient wristbands to alert staff members to specific conditions or a special status. This is a voluntary initiative in Tennessee and the same colors for three specific alerts are used in more than 30 other states.

Why a color-coded patient alert wristband?

Color-coded patient alert wristbands are used in hospitals to quickly communicate a certain healthcare status or condition that a patient may have. The color-coded wristband is a visual “alert” for all staff members, and helps them provide the best care possible. In addition to the meaning associated with the specific color, the alert is written on the alert wristband to reduce the chance of confusion.

What do the different colors mean?

This hospital uses three different color-coded patient alert wristbands, and they are commonly used in Tennessee, as well as in hospitals in other states.



Red means allergy alert.

An allergy to anything— food, medicine, latex, dust, grass, pet hair, etc.— should be documented. The red wristband reminds caregivers to check the allergy before delivering food, medicine or other aspects of care. This can be very important to avoid unpleasant or serious reactions.



Yellow means a risk to falls.

Nurses continuously assess patients to determine if they need extra attention to prevent a fall. Sometimes, a person may become weakened due to illness or because of a recent surgery. When a patient has this color-coded alert wristband, it is indicated that this patient needs to be assisted when walking to avoid a possible fall.



Purple means the physician has written a do-not-resuscitate order.

When patients have expressed an end-of-life wish, the hospital and its caregivers want to honor it.

Patients and family members need to be involved.

By knowing the meaning of the colored wristbands, you can help your caregivers meet your needs.

Please share information about allergies with your caregivers. This includes foods and pollens, as well as medication allergies.

If you have a tendency to lose your balance, tell your nurse. If you feel faint or unsteady after a procedure or following sedation, inform your caregiver and do not try to get up without assistance.

If you have an advance directive, please tell your team of caregivers. An advance directive tells your doctor what kind of care you want, if you become unable to make medical decisions. If you want to complete an advance directive, talk to your nurse. This hospital wants to honor your wishes and documenting your preferences allows us to do so.