



Earlier this summer, HAP and the Patient Safety Authority promoted the standardization of color-coded wristbands to designate allergies, fall risks, do-not-resuscitate orders, and other critical patient-specific information that physicians and nurses must be aware of at all times. During 2005, the Patient Safety Authority issued an advisory, based on reports submitted by hospitals, about the potential risks of color-coded wristbands being misinterpreted by health care providers due to the lack of standardization. The advisory led to a grassroots, pilot project among 11 northeastern and southcentral Pennsylvania hospitals to create a standardized color-coding system that has since been replicated in other states. Given the extent to which other states have adopted the standardized colors and the groundwork that already has been done in Pennsylvania, a logical next step is to encourage Pennsylvania hospitals using wristbands to standardize to the selected colors. HAP has retooled the original toolkit created by the Color of Safety Taskforce to include other useful resources developed by other states. If you have any questions, contact Lynn Leighton.

<http://enews.haponline.org/c.asp?nbkMXTWT1Q8kGN8IFYWXWgLDjxCVq3sfU4II0y/tzzGA>
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