



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
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6010
Ser M3/5HCS5/AT-33501
22 Jun 09

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE EAST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE WEST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE SUPPORT COMMAND

Subj: UNIFORM COLOR-CODED PATIENT ALERT WRISTBANDS AT NAVY
MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITIES

Ref: (a) Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority, Patient Advisory of 14 Dec 05
(b) American Hospital Association, Quality Advisory of 4 Sep 08

Encl: (1) Uniform Color-Coded Patient Wristbands at Navy Medical Treatment Facilities
(MTFs)

1. Per references (a) and (b), a Navy Medicine standardized list of colors for patient alert wristbands has been established for use by each command to provide a uniform color-coded wristband system for patients meeting criteria. This consistency between MTFs will facilitate patient safety for our mobile staff and patients.

2. In addition to references (a) and (b), recommendations were obtained from professional organizations and regulatory bodies. Enclosure (1) is the result of those recommendations.

3. Uniform color-coded wristbands will be implemented for all inpatients. If an MTF has already implemented, or decides to implement these wristbands in the future in any outpatient setting, the requirements of this policy will be followed.

4. MTFs shall:

a. Adopt and implement the set of uniform color-coded patient wristbands in enclosure (1) as part of their patient safety program within 120 days from the date of this policy letter.

b. Establish policies and procedures for uniform color-coded patient wristbands. Many policies and procedures that may be used have been developed. The Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority publishes their implementation toolkit online at <http://www.patientsafetyauthority.org/Pages/Default.aspx>

c. Provide orientation and training to all staff regarding color-coded wristbands listed in enclosure (1). Educational tools to assist with implementation are included in the same Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority toolkit.

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5. My point of contact for questions is Captain Linda Grant at DSN 762-3704 or
linda.grant@med.navy.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.M. Robinson, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'R'.

A. M. ROBINSON, JR.

Uniform Color-Coded Patient Alert Wristbands at Navy Medical Treatment Facilities (MTFs)

The following chart presents the meaning of each color-coded band:

Band Color	Communicates
Red	Allergy
Yellow	Fall Risk
Purple	DNR