

Guideline: Alarm Parameters in the RCMS



Guideline Number: RCMS 6

Responsible Department: Remote Cardiac Monitoring Station

Effective date: 2/2025

Scope: University of Toledo Medical Center

Procedure:

1. The heart rate alarms will be set, at the time of admission, by the Monitor Technician. After collaboration with the RN, the Monitor Technician may increase or decrease these parameters due to a change in patient's baseline. Recommended parameters are to set alarms 20 bpm above patient's baseline and 20 bpm below patient's baseline.
2. The alarms must remain on at all times with the following exceptions:
 - patient bathing
 - patient off the floorWhen a waveform reappears, the alarms will immediately be unsuspended. The RN will notify the RCMS Monitor Technician of each patients' leaving and returning.
3. In the event the RCMS Monitor Technician is not notified when a patient leaves and there is no waveform, the Technician is responsible for notifying the appropriate RN and obtaining clarification.
4. The RCMS Monitor Technician will be responsible for notifying the appropriate unit for alarms and any other changes noted in patient's waveform.
5. The non-lethal arrhythmia alarms may be turned off at the discretion of the Monitor Technician. Lethal alarms are not to be suspended at any time. Additional alarms that will not be turned off include ventricular rhythms and PVC's.
6. Documentation must be provided by the RCMS Monitor Technician for any adjusted or turned off alarms each shift.
7. The alarms are identified as below:
 - Red alarms of sustained new onset extreme bradycardia, <30 beats per minute, sustained ventricular tachycardia,
 - Sustained ventricular fibrillation and asystole will be communicated immediately to nursing staff by the red phone.
 - Red alarms other than these will be communicated to the nursing staff within ten minutes by regular phone.
 - All new onset yellow alarms will be communicated to the nursing staff within 30 minutes by regular phone.

- All of the above situations will be documented on the flowsheet by the RCMS Monitor Technician.

Reviewed by:

/s/

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Date

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