

## NURSING SERVICE GUIDELINES GENERAL

**Guideline: Identification and communication of restricted extremity use**



**Policy Number Superseded:**

**Effective Date:**  
May 2024

**Responsibility:** All patient care personnel

**Initial Effective Date:**  
April 2015

**Purpose of Guideline:** To have a standardized process that identifies patients with restrictions on the use of one or more extremities for the purpose of invasive and non-invasive procedures.

**Procedure:**

1. A 'limb alert' bracelet will be applied to the affected limb upon admission or at point of service, determining that an extremity has been deemed restricted.
2. No laboratory venous draws, no intravenous (IV) starts, and no blood pressures are to be performed on the affected limb.
3. The 'limb alert' bracelet will be left on the affected limb until either the restriction is lifted or at the time of patient discharge from the hospital.

Initial effective date:  
April 2015

Approved by:

*Kurt Kless, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC  
Chief Nursing Officer*

Review/Revision Date:  
April 2018  
March 2021  
May 2024

*Review/Revision Completed by:*

*Nancy Gauger, MSN, RN, NPD-BC,  
Staff Development Coordinator*

Next review date:  
May 2027

*Reviewed by Policy & Standard*

*Committee*

*April 2015, April 2018, March 2021,  
May 2024*