




MEWS Bleep System in Connolly Hospital

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Why should a Hospital
introduce a High Alert
Bleep System?



Literature Review Findings for Bleep System

- ❖ Nice 2007 recommend urgent call to Medical/Surgical team with primary responsibility for the patient
- ❖ Discussion Paper Queensland 2009 recommend Rapid Response team
- ❖ Connolly Hospital put plan into place to introduce **High Alert bleep system for MEWS**



Background

- ❖ The MEWS Committee was set up in Connolly in May 2009 and led by Mairead Lyons (Acting Director of Nursing)

Membership

- ❖ Consultant lead: Dr John McDermott (Endocrinology), Dr Andrew Tierney (Anaesthetics).
- ❖ Resuscitation Officer, ICU Nursing Staff and the Nurse Practice Development team.



Objectives of the MEWS Project

6 Objectives

1. Devise MEWS Policy.
2. Devise MEWS Vital signs chart.
3. Set up pilot project in two wards.
4. Devise Audit tool
5. Devise Education Programme (Local Education Programme, Long term plan is to introduce the Compass)
6. **Set up Bleep System/ Funding Required/Business plan**



Objective 6: High Alert MEWS Bleep System

- ❖ The High Alert Bleep system is used to alert a Doctor (registrar) that there is a patient on this ward with an MEWS score of 4 or more that needs to be reviewed within 30 minutes.



Introducing the Bleep System for MEWS

- ❖ Business proposal was submitted requesting funding for a project to reprogramme the existing bleep system to accommodate 7 digit numbers for the High Alert Bleep system
- ❖ Funding was received from Nursing and Planning & Development, HSE, Dublin North.
- ❖ Switch Board Supervisor contacted and informed re proposal for change in bleep system
- ❖ Technical Service manager from HSE contacted.
- ❖ Bp Multipage Ltd : Costs for a two wire analog trunk interface is 800e and it is used to receive calls from new bleep system.
- ❖ Siemens Enterprise Communications LTD : Re-program the paging system pager: Costs 625e.
- ❖ Total costs: 1425e



Bleep System:

- ❖ Connolly Hospital uses BP Multipage LTD Access paging system which is currently used in many HSE Hospitals throughout Ireland.
- ❖ Siemens Communication Company identified a position line in the existing bleep system for the 89 bleep and dedicated it the MEWS.
- ❖ The bleep is sent to only one person.
- ❖ It has the potential to be sent to a group of people, e.g. pre-arrest team/early intervention team.



Bleep System

The bleep software is capable of providing important statistics on

- ❖ What calls were made.
- ❖ To what pager/team of pagers
- ❖ What time and date the call was sent.
- ❖ Message content, e.g. what phone number bleep was made from.

(This software must be activated.)

MEWS OF 4 OR MORE



THIS IS A HIGH ALERT



YOU MUST BLEEP the PATIENT'S REGISTRAR or ON CALL REGISTRAR

- DIAL 89
- ENTER Dr's BLEEP NUMBER
- ENTER EXTENSION NO.
- ENTER 444

E.G. 89/267/5184/444

The Doctor will receive a Bleep with a message that looks like this - 5184 444

NB This Doctor must review the patient on the ward within 30 minutes.

Inform the Doctor of the Situation, the patient's Background and Assessment.



Results to Date

- ❖ In a 20 day period, there were 8 calls made to the High Alert Bleep System.
- ❖ Overall feedback is very Good.
- ❖ There was one incident where the High Alert Bleep was not answered as it had been inadvertently left in a Office.