

**PATIENT CARE PRACTICE GUIDELINE  
CARE OF PATIENT  
ARMBANDS/PATIENT IDENTIFICATION BAND**

Armbands are used to provide hospital personnel with positive identification of each patient.

- I. At the time of admission, a patient identification band will be applied to the arm of each patient. Information recorded on the band includes patient name, date of birth, age, sex, medical record number, hospital account number, admission date, physician's name, and room number.
- II. Armband patient identification is required when administering medications, performing treatments and procedures, and collecting laboratory specimens. The patient care provider must verify at least two (2) patient identifiers, neither of which should include the patient's room number. Acceptable patient identifiers include:
  - A. Patient name
  - B. Patient date of birth.Inpatient identifiers should be cross-checked against the patient's identification armband. Emergency Department patients may be identified by the name assigned by the Emergency Department (i.e. Jane Doe) and Medical Record Number until further information is collected.
- III. Patient care activities should not be performed if wristbands are absent or erroneous until re-banding has occurred, except in rare life-threatening circumstances when the physician or nurse can positively identify the patient.
- IV. Whenever a band is removed for any reason, it is the responsibility of the remover to assure re-banding.
- V. Any time a patient care provider discovers an absent or erroneous armband, the armband should be corrected and replaced immediately.

Reference:

Nettina, Sandra M. (2001). Lippincott Manual of Nursing Practice. Lippincott, Williams, and Wilkins (ed).