

Our hospital is proud to be a supporter of this collaborative work, making health care safer and better for patients and their families.



Oklahoma health care providers are working together to make patients safe.

We accomplish this goal by working together on statewide projects in an endeavor to use the same methods or processes, like color-coded wristbands.



Patient Safety: Understanding what your color-coded "alert" wristbands mean



Statewide Patient Safety Initiatives

Patient safety is a priority in Oklahoma. We accomplish this in several ways, one that includes all hospitals using the same colors in their alert bracelets. This initiative is not only in Oklahoma, but is now in most states.

What is a Color-coded “Alert” Wristband?

Alert wristbands are used in hospitals to quickly communicate a certain health care status or an “alert” that a patient may have. This is done so every staff member can provide the best care possible, even if they do not know that patient. The different colors have certain meanings. The words for the alerts are also written on the wristband to reduce the chance of confusing the alert messages.

What do the different colors mean?

There are five different color-coded “alert” wristbands that have been standardized throughout the state.

RED means ALLERGY ALERT



If you have an allergy to anything – food, medicine, dust, grass, pet hair, ANYTHING – tell us. It may not seem important to you but it could be very important in the care you receive.

YELLOW means FALL RISK



We want to prevent falls at all times. Your provider will determine if you need extra attention in order to prevent a fall. Sometimes, a person may become weakened during their illness or because they just had a surgery. When a patient has this color-coded alert wristband, it indicates this person needs to be assisted when walking or they may fall.

PURPLE means “DNR” or Do Not Resuscitate



Some patients have expressed an end-of-life wish and we want to honor that.

PINK means Restricted Extremity



When a patient has this color-coded wristband, the health provider is saying this patient’s extremity should be handled with extreme care. Other care providers are alerted to check with the nurse prior to any tests or procedures.

GREEN means Latex Allergy



When a patient has this color-coded wristband, it indicates an allergic reaction to latex. This green wristband will alert the doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals about your allergy.

Involving Patients and Family Members

It is important that the patient and families know these colors and their meanings because you are the best source of information.

Keep us informed.

If there is information we do not know, such as a food allergy or a tendency to lose balance and almost fall, share that with us because we want to provide the

best and safest health care to all of our patients.

Also, if you have an Advance Directive, tell us so. An Advance Directive tells your doctor what kind of care you would like if you become unable to make medical decisions. We want to respect and honor a patient’s wishes and that is done best when we have all of the information.