10Steps
Toward Safer Alarm Management

Adapted from The AAMI Foundation's *Clinical Alarm Management Compendium*. The full compendium is available at **www.aami.org/alarm_compendium.pdf**.

1

Issue a Call to Action

Shared motivation convinces people of the need for systemic change. Get senior management to commit to solving the challenges, risks, and opportunities of alarm management.

2

Create a Multidisciplinary Team

A diverse range of expertise is critical. Bring together a multidisciplinary team to spearhead action and build consensus.

3

Identify Challenges And Opportunities

It usually takes some investigation to identify the full scope of alarm management challenges and to develop systemic improvements. Gather data and intelligence—and be open to surprises.

4

Prioritize Risks

Use the data from intelligence-gathering efforts to zero in on the patient safety vulnerabilities to address. Then target interventions to make the most impact.

5

Set and Share Goals

To implement system-wide changes, formalize your goals, objectives, and activities and share them with institutional leaders to gain approval and funding.

6

Develop and Pilot Potential Solutions

Armed with data and institutional approval, develop a pilot project that can become a model for wider-scale implementation. Start by making modest changes with a continuous improvement mindset.

7

Evaluate and Make Adjustments

Learn from pilot projects to make the next round of changes go more smoothly and avoid unnecessary expenditures. Gather feedback, communicate findings, and share insights.

8

Develop Policies And Procedures

Consider having an overarching alarm management policy with device-specific procedures. Keep in mind that policies and procedures should reflect different solutions in different units.

9

Educate Staff

Educate and train staff before, during, and after launching pilots and wider-scale implementations. Make sure they know why changes are occurring and how changes will benefit them and their patients.

10

Scale Up and Sustain

Strive to make alarm management "business as usual" for your hospital or healthcare system. Work to cultivate ownership at the unit level, and continue to improve.