



# Colored Alert Wristbands

*Pennsylvania's hospitals and health systems are working together to make Pennsylvania's health care the safest in the nation.*

## **About Colored Alert Wristbands...**

Wristbands are used in hospitals to quickly communicate certain health care information. Some of the wristbands are colored and designate certain health care conditions and status to readily alert everyone who cares for the patient.

The different colors have different meanings. In addition, words are included on the wristband to further reduce the chance of confusion about the alert messages.

Upon admission or at any point during your hospital stay, a colored alert wristband may be placed on your arm.

## **Wristband Colors and Meanings...**

### **Red = ALLERGY**

This wristband is for patients who have an allergy to anything—food, medicine, dust, grass, or even pet hair. It may not seem important to you, but any allergy is important information for your health care team.

### **Yellow = FALL RISK**

Your health care team wants to prevent falls at all times. Some patients need help to move or walk, especially those patients who have become weakened by their illness. A yellow wristband is for patients who need extra assistance when walking so that they don't fall.

### **Green = LATEX ALLERGY**

Many products used in hospitals are made of latex. Some patients can have a severe allergic reaction to it. A green wristband is for patients who have allergies to products containing latex. Your hospital team will substitute non-latex products for you.

### **Purple = DNR**

Some patients have expressed an end-of-life wish that they would like honored in the event of a cardiac arrest. When a patient is wearing a purple wristband, it alerts the hospital staff to check the patient record for important information on patient end-of-life directives.

### **Pink = RESTRICTED EXTREMITY**

Some patients have past or current conditions that would prohibit the use of a certain extremity for various reasons. Patients with this condition wear a pink wristband on the affected extremity to alert staff to avoid using this limb for blood draws, IV insertions, and other medical procedures.

## **How Can You Help?**

Remove any community (charity or fashion) wristbands while in the hospital to avoid any possible confusion among these bands and those used for purposes of your health care.

Only wear the wristband placed by hospital staff.

Tell hospital staff about any allergies you may have, if you have a tendency to lose your balance, and if you have an Advance Directive.

Tell a nurse if a wristband falls off during your stay.