A Cost-Saving Plan for Patient Identification in Hospitals by Mike Ferring

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Healthcare organizations and hospitals are under numerous types of budget crunches. Consumers are cutting back on non-essential healthcare services, patients are finding it more and more difficult to pay for their services, and then patients enter hospitals and healthcare facilities as sicker patients with higher needs. As a result hospital administrators are trying to find ways to save money from the front end of the patient-hospital process, to the end result of a patient leaving the facility.

Increasing patient care needs and higher co-pays and deductibles are having a dual impact on providersâ€™ ability to collect fees from consumers. Because of this, hospital and care facilities executives are looking at new ways to increase operational efficiencies. Because of this, many healthcare organizations are working to improve the efficiency of costs involved from everything like staffing, overtime, medicine costs, patient identification systems and even laundry and energy costs.

In order to minimize operational costs while improving the overall patient experience, medical facilities and hospitals need to focus better on patient comfort and safety, and lower administrative complexities. To accomplish this, many healthcare organizations are working to digitize medical records and patient identification.

Using hospital identification tags for 100% positive patient identification is clearly a patient safety issue, as major hospitals always need to be able to clearly identify every patient all the time. Proper patient identification is the foundation of patient safety. Itâ€™s important to have wristbands that stay on the patient and remain readable after repeated use and extended treatments. To meet this requirement, hospital bracelets need to be easy to print, easy to read, and cost effective to deploy.

In hospitals and medical care facilities, this is accomplished by hospital administrators, who can use laser printers to print the data onto vendor-provided color-coded wristbands. Itâ€™s an affordable and easy solution to implement that meets medical procedures and provides a cost-effective solution without having to invest in new equipment.

Upon a patientâ€™s arrival, print the patientâ€™s identification info from a database to a printer. Then they affix the printed patient information to a colored ID wristband. After the patient has been coded to a particular color as determined by the hospital or care facility, the wristband is then placed onto the patient. During the duration of the patient stay, the hospital wristband ID will be the primary identifying component for the patient.

Ensuring the safety of patients and the accuracy of patient identification through a hospital wristband ID system is paramount for medical facilities. As nurses and doctors make their rounds, the colored wristbands give them a snapshot of accurate data for bedside analyses, specimen collections and other necessary daily orders. Proper hospital identification tags definitely help in saving thousands of dollars in overall costs in the quality of care offered by these organizations.

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