Section 9 Subject 9.13 **Policy 9.13.19**	Clinical Policies General Procedures Patient Care Alarm Systems: Maintenance, Testing, and Activation	10/17/03 - Originated 11/14/06 - Reviewed w/ changes 09/10/09 - Reviewed w/o changes Clinical Equipment Services - Author

Patient Care Alarm Systems: Maintenance, Testing, and Activation

Definition

Patient care alarm is any alarm that is used in patient care to alert healthcare providers of patient safety issues including but not limited to: cardiac monitors, ventilators, infusion pumps, medical gas alarms, patient call systems, and bed or elopement alarms. Exclusions from this policy would be such as fire alarms, laboratory alarms, refrigerator alarms and elevator alarms.

Policy

UTMB is committed to maintaining a comprehensive program addressing maintenance, testing, and activation of patient care alarm systems to promote patient safety. To encourage recognition of patient-safety risks, each department will identify staff responsible for verification of maintenance, testing, and alarm activation.

Preventative Maintenance

All patient care equipment will be maintained by the Clinical Equipment Service (CES). Preventative maintenance will be performed per CES scheduling based on manufacturers' recommendations, University policy, and regulatory standards. Health care providers must assess for current maintenance status prior to use.

Testing

Alarm testing will be done as part of preventative maintenance. Alarm volumes will be checked and verified as audible when equipment is placed in use and with each new user. Testing process for each type of equipment will be conducted as instructed by the equipment manufacturers.

Setting

Alarms and alarm limits will be set based on the clinical setting and the clinical condition of the patient when the equipment is placed in use and with each new user.