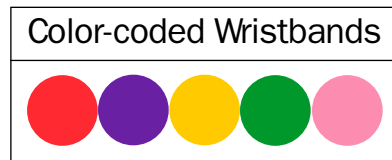


Making Patients Safe in Indiana

Please visit the Web site of the Indiana Patient Safety Center—
indianapatientssafety.org—for more information.



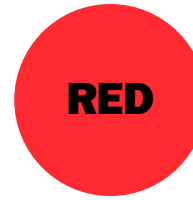
Banding Together for Patient Safety



Why Hospitals Use Color-coded Wristbands on Patients

Color-coded wristbands are used within hospitals to communicate a specific health care need or safety risk that a patient might have. This is done so that every staff member within the hospital can provide the best care possible for patients.

- Wristbands tell hospital employees who you are.
- Each color tells your caregiver about a special need that you have.
- Color coded wristbands help protect you.



RED

Allergy

Patients wearing a **RED** wristband have notified hospital staff of allergies they may have to things such as medications, foods, dust, grass, or pets.



PURPLE

DNR

Some patients express 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 hospital staff to check the patient's medical record for end-of-life directives.



YELLOW

Fall Risk

It is important to prevent falls while the patient is in the hospital. When a patient is wearing a **YELLOW** wristband, it alerts all hospital staff that the patient needs help walking or getting up.



GREEN

Latex Allergy

Many products used in hospitals are made of latex and can cause certain patients to have a severe allergic reaction. When patients are wearing a **GREEN** wristband, it alerts hospital staff that they have allergies to products containing latex so that non-latex supplies are used.



PINK

Limb Alert

Some patients have a condition that restricts the use of a certain arm or leg. Patients with this condition wear a **PINK** band on the affected extremity to alert staff to avoid using this limb for blood draws, IV insertions, and other medical procedures.