Application Note:

Patient & Staff Safety Solution

Provides Real-Time Location, Status and Alerts to Improve the Quality of Care and Safety of Patients and Staff

Challenges

Many patients, including psychiatric patients, those with Alzheimer’s disease, and the elderly can pose a safety risk to themselves through wandering and elopement. Some patients may even pose a risk to staff. When emergencies occur, staff may have difficulty alerting other staff of their needs as well as their location. Patients also often lack the means to alert staff of an emergency or need for care. Manual methods of monitoring patients can drain valuable resources. Additionally, tracking and recording staff whereabouts and responsiveness to calls can be difficult.

Solution

STANLEY Healthcare offers a Patient & Staff Safety solution which uses a unified, standard Wi-Fi infrastructure to deliver a wide variety of benefits:

Patient Elopement: Staff members are immediately alerted when an at-risk patient exits the ward/building or enters a restricted area by employing a variety of notification methods (e.g., pagers, instant alerts on workstations, VOIP phones and localized audio-visual indications). In addition, STANLEY Healthcare’s AeroScout® MobileView® software displays live tracking and the historical path of wandering patients.

Staff Duress: Staff members can carry call-button tags, which can be triggered to alert other staff members upon encountering an emergency or in staff duress situations. The alert is accompanied by the real-time location of the staff member requiring assistance. The staff member’s location, along with other responders’ location, is updated dynamically on the map views.

Patient Distress: Patients wearing tags with call buttons can trigger panic or distress alerts. Notifications along with the patient’s location are sent to staff and security.

Integration to Nurse Call: The solution integrates to existing Nurse Call systems to detect staff presence in patient rooms and automate Nurse Call room status light indicators. It enables reduction in the manual entry of entrance/exit events, provides historical location data of nurses and enables dynamic routing of calls to staff members based on their real-time location and patient assignments.

Benefits

- Improves patient care and safety—a benefit not only to the patient but often to the patient’s family, who may be responsible for the individual’s care
- Helps ensure the safety of the caregivers and reduces risk associated with their positions
- Improves the efficiency and peace of mind of clinical care staff, who know exactly where patients are
- Leverages your existing Wi-Fi infrastructure, which can be used indoors and outdoors for tracking patient and staff whereabouts
- May reduce costs associated with medical liability
- Improves occupational safety agency compliance for employee safety
How It Works

The solution uses STANLEY Healthcare’s battery-powered Wi-Fi tags worn by patients (wristband) and/or staff (badge). The tags feature call buttons, which can be pressed by staff members to wirelessly send an alert to other staff, signaling distress or a patient emergency. Tags can also be worn by patients and include an optional call button, which can be pressed to note an emergency or need for care. The location of the patients and staff can be tracked at all times through STANLEY Healthcare’s AeroScout MobileView software, with facility maps color-coded by zones (i.e., departments, rooms or floors). Through MobileView, the location, status and movement of all tracked patients, staff and assets can be viewed in real-time and historically.

The Patient & Staff Safety solution may also employ STANLEY Healthcare’s Exciter technology, providing instantaneous detection when a patient enters or exits the facility or a restricted area. An automated alert is sent when a tag is triggered. Alert types may include an e-mail, a pop-up window in MobileView, a page, a VOIP phone or badge alert, a text message or other forms of alerts such as integration to the facility’s security system (i.e., lock door, sound alarm, activate visual alert, etc.) or Nurse Call system.

MobileView features a series of customizable and standard reports that enable organizations to understand and analyze the types of safety challenges and responses to further improve processes. The MobileView system can also be used to analyze safety incidents through a review of historical motion.

Solution Highlights

- Leverages existing Wi-Fi network for lowest total cost of ownership
- Displays hospital map and list views with the location and status of patients and staff
- Provides real-time visibility data integration with security and nurse call systems
- Enables choke-point detection, room separation and bay-level resolution
- Includes applications for Patient Elopement, Staff Duress and Patient Distress