

SURVEY OF CAPHC CENTRES  
**PEDIATRIC IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS**  
 March 2006

	Which patient identification system do you use to link the mother and infant?	How many bands are there in this system? . e.g. three band system for mother and baby, or four band system for both parents and baby	Sick infants commonly require removal of limb bands for IV placement. What type of band is used to replace the original ones?	Infants admitted to pediatric centres from home or from another facility require new bands. For these infants, what system is used?	In your experience, are any of the following safety issues prevalent with the system you use? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loose Bands fall off</li> <li>• Bands cause injury</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>	What systems do you have in place to minimize risk of misidentification? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies</li> <li>• Procedures</li> <li>• Bar coding</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>
IWK	Matching Armbands for mom and baby with the baby's unique ID#	2 bands; one for mom and one for baby	No replacement. If bands are removed or baby too small, they are taped to the incubator/bedside. Band applied as soon as appropriate.	Infant is given a band with their patient ID#.	Loose bands do fall off and have to be replaced. Have not had problems with bands causing injury.	Have a policy for patient identification.
CHEO (Vicky Ward- NICU)	N/A	N/A	We use Soft-Lock Uniprint pediatric/infant wristbands. If we take them off for procedures, we stick the old one on the bed (ie: isolette, overbed) (Vendor Info: Medical Mart Supplies Limited 1-800-268-2848, Vendor Item #722-619-73-PDJ)	We put the Soft-Lock band on – only one on any of the limbs, As previous, if they are taken off, we stick them on their beds. We replace a new one as soon as possible, especially if the child is going to the OR or other procedure.	We currently really like our bands. We had to replace from our old ones that were too big. The new ones will only fall off if the nurse puts it on too loose.	CHEO has a draft corporate policy on patient ID. (Draft policy provided.)
CHEO (Debbie Cowan-Clinical Risk)	N/A	N/A	The same as the original	Same system as all admissions to facility. Applied at time of arrival and registration	Had issues with bands falling off. Purchased bands that are infant size and go very small and issue seems to be resolved.	New policy on Patient Identification (Policy provided)
Northern Alberta Neonatal Intensive Care Program – Royal Alexandra Hospital Site	Hollister Ident-A-Band	3 band system. The bands have corresponding numbers	Usually a Hollister band, but on some occasions for tiny prems a soft posey with a label adhered to it is used.	Hollister Ident-A-Band, specific to our unit. The old band is usually kept with the chart.	Yes, loose bands fall off. Bands are not generally too tight, but can cause abrasion.	Babies from caseroom have 2 bands that have been checked by either 2 caseroom nurses or transport nurse and caseroom nurse. Transferred or discharged infants have bands checked by 2 nurses or mother and nurse.
Halton Healthcare Service – Milton Site	Precision Snugfit	4 band system.	N/A	Whatever system the new facility uses.	Loose bands fall off – parents don't realize that they can be tightened, but not loosened.	Procedures – also we are a small community hospital with only 8 beds at any one time and mothers have 24 hour rooming in. (Policy provided.)
Halton Healthcare Service - Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital Site	Precision Dynamics 4 band system and HUGs™ security band	4 band system	One band remains on patient along with HUGs tage	4 band system and HUGs used in our Special Care Nursery;single band system in pediatrics	Loose bands	
Halton Healthcare Service – Georgetown District Hospital Site	Hollister Ident-A-Band	3 band system for mother and baby	Band that is removed is taped to cot or isolette. One original band remains on the baby.	Same as birth band system	Loose bands fall off. Fathers frequently request a band	Policy and procedure for applying and checking bands. Bands are check with a parent at birth. Bands are checked with mother's band when baby is taken from mother

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Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC	Hollister Ident-A-Band	Three bands at the delivery suite. Once admitted to NICU, we replace the two baby bands into our own two band system. We cut & tape the delivery suite baby bands on the incubator.	None, once cut, we tape them on the incubator.	Hollister	None, some bands fall off because of weight loss.	We are in the process of changing the policies and procedures, having the ID bands on babies at all times. (Page from unit manual provided.)
Sick Kids, Toronto	N/A	N/A	Arm band is placed on an available limb. If no limb is available due to multiple lines, complex care like burns etc., arm band is secured to the IV tubing/pole or machine. This is not optimal, but is reality. If the band is removed, it is replaced with an identical bracelet There is a standard band that is used.	The patient is identified by the parents and/or transferring staff and an arm band is applied. The arm band is generated by the registration department on admission.	Loose bands fall off, especially with infants and premature babies. Bands placed/taped to beds not with child at all times which is problematic. We haven't had issues with bands causing injury but, occasionally we've seen skin irritation/rash/markings of skin particularly with infants who may have increased fluid retention.	<p>Policies: We have a Patient Identification Policy and are currently implementing a "Verification of Correct Patient Site &amp; Procedure" policy to prevent wrong site Procedures. This policy includes a procedure for active verification of patient ID using standardized patient identifiers.</p> <p>A review of patient ID practices in ambulatory settings has been conducted. A similar review will be planned for the inpatient settings.</p> <p>A group with our Information Services department is currently evaluating the implications of Bar Coding technology for our hospital and is preparing a formal analysis report.</p>
Lakeridge Health Corporation, Oshawa and Port	Mother is given a band on admission and another at birth that matches baby's. This is always on before mom and baby leave the birthing room. It has mom's unique number. It is on until discharge and beyond if the family wants. The baby gets another one later that has her/his own unique number.	We don't have the 3 or 4 band system like you mention and I am used to elsewhere.	A new band is used and we have a way to use a printout of all the info that can be slid into a new band.	New hospital bands are put on at admission.	No it seems to work well as nurses keep an eye on loose bands	Policies in place when newborns and mom are separated etc Always check unique numbers for ID for meds etc.
Grey Bruce Health Services	Snug fit – 4 OB imprinter band	4 bands	Infant generally has 2 bands on – one on ankle and one on wrist – effort is made to avoid removing both bands. If both were	A paediatric band is used currently	Loose bands do fall off so we recently switched to the snugfit – it can be tightened after application – but not	Policy/procedure on infant identification from the delivery room, transfer to the nursery or the

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			mom/partner and baby		loosened. With the 3 band system it was hard to identify the father (or significant other identified by the mother) who should be able to visit the baby in the nursery or remove the baby from the nursery – the 4th band allows us to connect them now. Bands can cause injury.	postpartum floor and upon admission to the paediatric floor. These need updating since we recently switched from a 3 band system to the 4 band.
Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre	Hollister Ident-A-Band	We use the three band system - 2 bands for babe and one for mom.	NICU uses the "PDC Precision Dynamics Corporation ID Bands"	"PDC Precision Dynamics Corporation"	For the tiny babes, they tend to be too loose and fall off. Also they can damage the skin. Often they are cut off for perc line or peripheral line placement.	Unfortunately there is no bar coding. Hospital policy states that all patients have to be identified. Oftentimes this means placing new armbands on when blood is drawn as the lab will not bleed a baby if there is no armband in place.
Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Sherbrooke	Bracelets	3 bands : 1 for mother and 2 for baby	Another bracelet. Depending on the age/weight . For baby or low weight, ad approx. 6 months of age, we put on the one used in our NICU ( ¼ inch wide and softer) and other infants, we use the "regular" hospital bracelet for adults .	Same as previous question	Loose bands : yes in the maternity unit with newborns. Other safety issues : none presently	We have a policy for newborns, infants. As for older children, it's the same as the policy for adults. (Policy provided)
Foothills Medical Centre, NICU/SCN, Calgary	Unique Identifier Band System	3 bands generated at delivery 1 for mother, 2 for baby New band issued when admitted to NICU/SCN –checked with original	ID band is attached to infant if possible or warmer/incubator. New bands are documented on "Infant Identification Record".	A new band will replace the old band. Regional patient ID number is assigned.	Bands are not applied to small or very sick infants as they can cause skin breakdown, can get tight if infant becomes edematous or become an encumbrance to care i.e. removed for IV starts	Policy (provided). ID bands are checked every shift and documented A s part of our safety initiatives, we do safety audits including ID band checks every six months which is forwarded to the administrator. No bar coding at present.
Alberta Children's Hospital	N/A	N/A	A new band is stamped up and replaced with a new ID band. We discourage staff to put old ID bands on the crib	A new band will replace the old band. Parents often keep the old Id band as a keepsake	The most common problem is parents insisting the bands are too tight, and then the band falls off. If loose or too tight it would be replaced. Have not seen bands that resulted in injury.	Policy (provided). ID bands are checked every shift and documented .As part of our safety initiatives, we do safety audits including ID band checks every six months which is forwarded to the administrator No bar coding at present
Health Sciences Centre, Winnipeg	Hollister clear plastic band	3 bands, one for mother, two for baby	Hollister yellow band with metal clasp	Hollister green band with metal clasp	Bands with metal clasp require insertion of a finger to close; hence they are often loose on small infants and are constantly falling off.	Policy, last revised in 2001, outlines the type of band, replacement procedure, accountability and documentation.

