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<b>Section:</b>	3.0 Clinical Care/Patient Rights

## **PATIENT IDENTIFICATION**

### **Purpose:**

- To ensure that all patients receiving care at Boston Medical Center (BMC) have the proper identification band when required and, if appropriate red allergy alert band and/or blue precautions alert band.
- To ensure that all BMC employees utilize the two patient identifiers when providing care, treatment or services

### **Policy Statement:**

1. All in-patients and observation patients will have a patient identification band.
2. For all in-patients and observation patients, the two patient identifiers will be the patient's full name and medical record number.
3. All outpatients undergoing procedures that require moderate or deep sedation will have a patient identification band.
4. For all outpatient patients, the two patient identifiers will be the patient's name and birth date.
5. For all home care patients: at the initial visit the two identifiers will be full name and address, all follow-up visits will be facial recognition and address.
6. All staff, prior to performing invasive procedures, phlebotomy, medication administration, blood administration, providing breast milk and transport to another location will use two identifiers to verify a patient's identity.
7. All patients with known allergies will have a red allergy alert band.
8. If the patient has a red allergy band, the care team will refer back to the patient's medical record specific allergy conditions.
9. All patients suspected of or diagnosed with a disease or condition requiring Infection Control precautions [Contact, Droplet, or Airborne] will have a blue precautions alert band.
10. If the patient has a blue precautions alert band, the care team will refer to the patient's medical record for information about which organism(s) or condition require(s) precautions.

### **Application:**

All patients at BMC.

### **Exceptions:**

Patients in non-procedural areas

### **Procedure:**

#### **A. Patient Identification Band**

1. All patient ID bands must be attached to the wrist or ankle. If a band must be removed during the course of patient care, it must be replaced as soon as possible. In the event

the band cannot be replaced immediately, the removed ID band will be compared to the face sheet in the chart to ensure proper identification. The ID band must be placed on the patient as soon as it is feasible to do so. If a patient is discovered without an identification band the following steps must be followed in order to confirm patient identity before putting a new band on the patient.

- a. Ask the patient his/her name and the correct spelling.
  - b. Ask the patient his/her date of birth.
  - c. Ask the patient to provide his/her address and social security number.
  - d. If the patient is unable to identify him/herself, ask a family member/significant other to provide the information.
  - e. If no family/significant other is available, ask a provider who has previously identified the patient.
2. Verify that the responses match the information on the face sheet and band the patient immediately
  3. ID bands must not be removed from deceased patients.

***Prior to any invasive procedures, medication administration, phlebotomy, blood administration, providing breast milk and transport, the patient's full name and medical record number will be checked against the identification band and the paperwork, medication label or supply to ensure proper identification.***

NOTE: All specimens drawn for Blood Bank must have two sets of initials on the tube label. Patient must be positively identified by two staff members to reduce the risk of mistransfusion.

***B. Red Allergy Alert Band***

1. The nurse at point of entry to BMC or on admission or at any point thereafter will place the proper, red alert band on the same extremity as the Patient Identification band.
2. The nurse will document the application of the red allergy alert band on the appropriate assessment in the patient medical record or in a progress note.
3. In the event that the allergy alert band has to be removed for a treatment or a procedure, the nurse will remove the band and upon completion of the treatment or procedure, re-confirm the allergy, and reattach the band.
4. The nurse will instruct the patient and his/her family member(s) that the allergy alert band is a trigger to the care team to refer back to the actual medical record for reference on specific allergy conditions and should not be removed.
5. In the event that a patient refuses to wear the allergy alert wristband, a refusal note will be placed in the patient's chart.

***C. BLUE Precautions Alert Band***

- 1 The nurse, at point of entry to BMC, or on admission, or at any point thereafter, when precautions are instituted, will place the blue precautions alert band on the same extremity as the patient identification band.
- 2 In the event that the precautions alert band has to be removed for a treatment or a procedure, the nurse will remove the band and upon completion of the treatment or procedure, re-confirm the risks, and reattach the band.
- 3 The nurse will instruct the patient and his/her family member(s) that the precautions alert band is a trigger to the care team to refer back to the medical record for information on the patient's diagnosis or condition requiring precautions, and that the band should not be removed during care.

- 4 Patient Teaching: At the time that the precautions alert band is applied, or at the earliest possible time thereafter, the nurse will educate the patient, and her/his family about the reasons for precautions. Printed informational brochures are available on the Infection Control Department website to help explain conditions such as infection/colonization with resistant organisms, and about infection control strategies to prevent spread. <http://internal.bmc.org/infectioncontrol/>
- 5 Teaching is documented in the medical record.
- 6 In the event that a patient refuses to wear the allergy alert band, a refusal note will be placed in the patient's chart.
- 7 If precautions are discontinued [see IC 5.3.4.Precautions – Start/Stop/Transfer] [http://internal.bmc.org/policy/pdf/HospitalWide/05\\_03\\_040\\_PrecautionsStartStopTransferClearance\\_072006.pdf](http://internal.bmc.org/policy/pdf/HospitalWide/05_03_040_PrecautionsStartStopTransferClearance_072006.pdf) the precautions alert band should be removed by the provider caring for the patient.

**Responsibility:**

All employees providing care and services to patients.

**Forms:**

BMC Teaching Brochures – Resistant Organisms

**Other Related Policies**

Policy # 10.02.13 Newborn Identification

5.3.2 Transmission Based Precautions

5.3.4 Precautions – Start/Stop/Transfer

**Section:** 3.0 Clinical Care/Patient Rights

**Policy No.:** 3.33

**Title:** Patient Identification

**Initiated by:**

**Contributing Departments:**

1. Nursing
2. Regulatory Compliance