

## Telemetry Alarm Fatigue

Brittany Furs BSN, RN  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network*

Yesenia Stott BSN, RN  
*Lehigh Valley Health Network*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlyworks.lvhn.org/patient-care-services-nursing>



Part of the [Nursing Commons](#)

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you**

---

### Published In/Presented At

Furs, B. Stott, Y. (2017, February). *Telemetry Alarm Fatigue*. Poster presented at: LVHN Vizient/AACN Nurse Residency Program Graduation, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA.

This Poster is brought to you for free and open access by LVHN Scholarly Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in LVHN Scholarly Works by an authorized administrator. For more information, please contact [LibraryServices@lvhn.org](mailto:LibraryServices@lvhn.org).



# Telemetry Alarm Fatigue

Brittany Furs BSN, RN & Yesenia Stott BSN, RN  
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

## Background/Significance

- Directors and nurses within their perspective units, discussed and voiced their concerns in regards to non-emergent telemetry alarms.
- The American Association of Critical Care Nurses made alarm safety a priority since nurses are the ones who directly experience these alarms.

## PICO

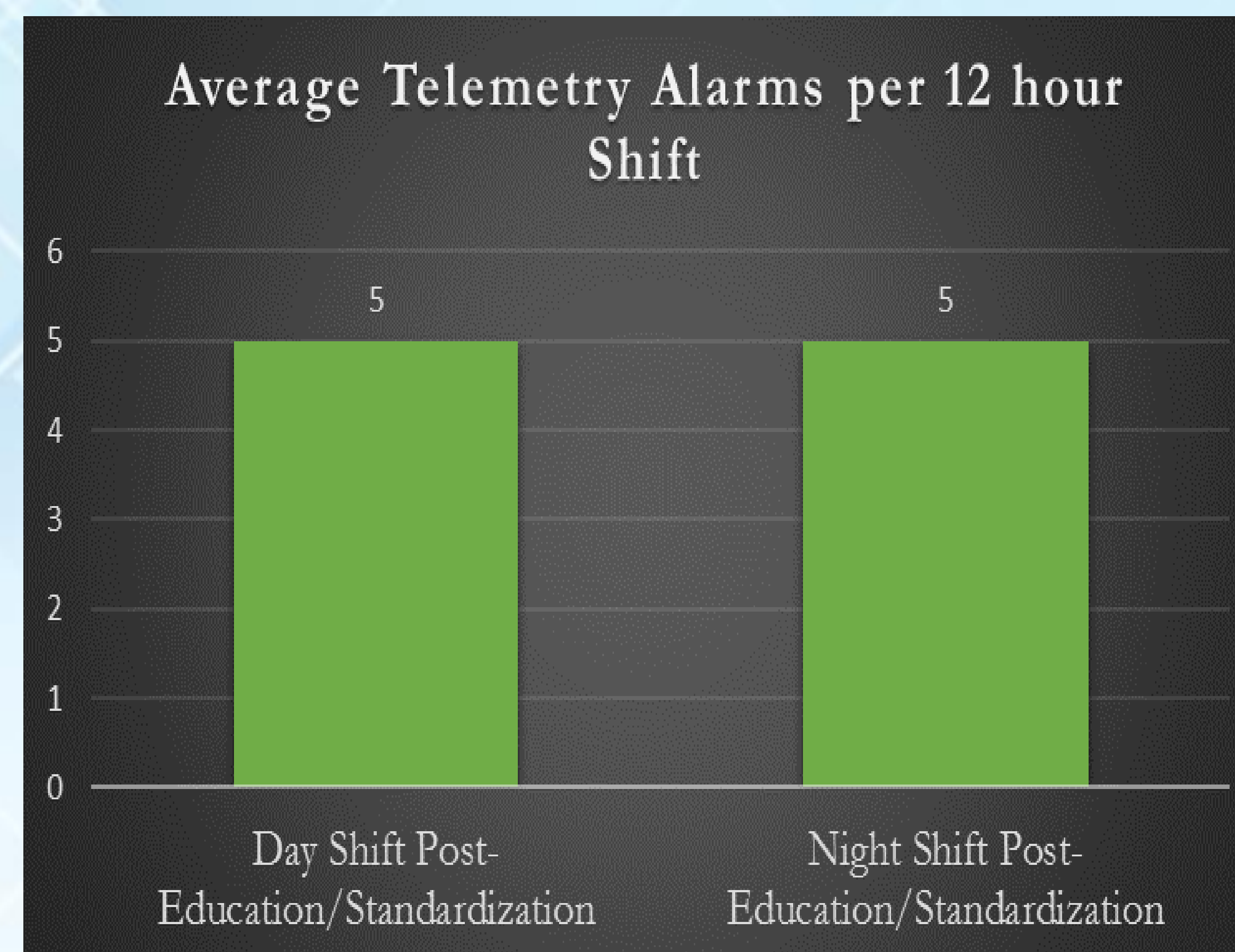
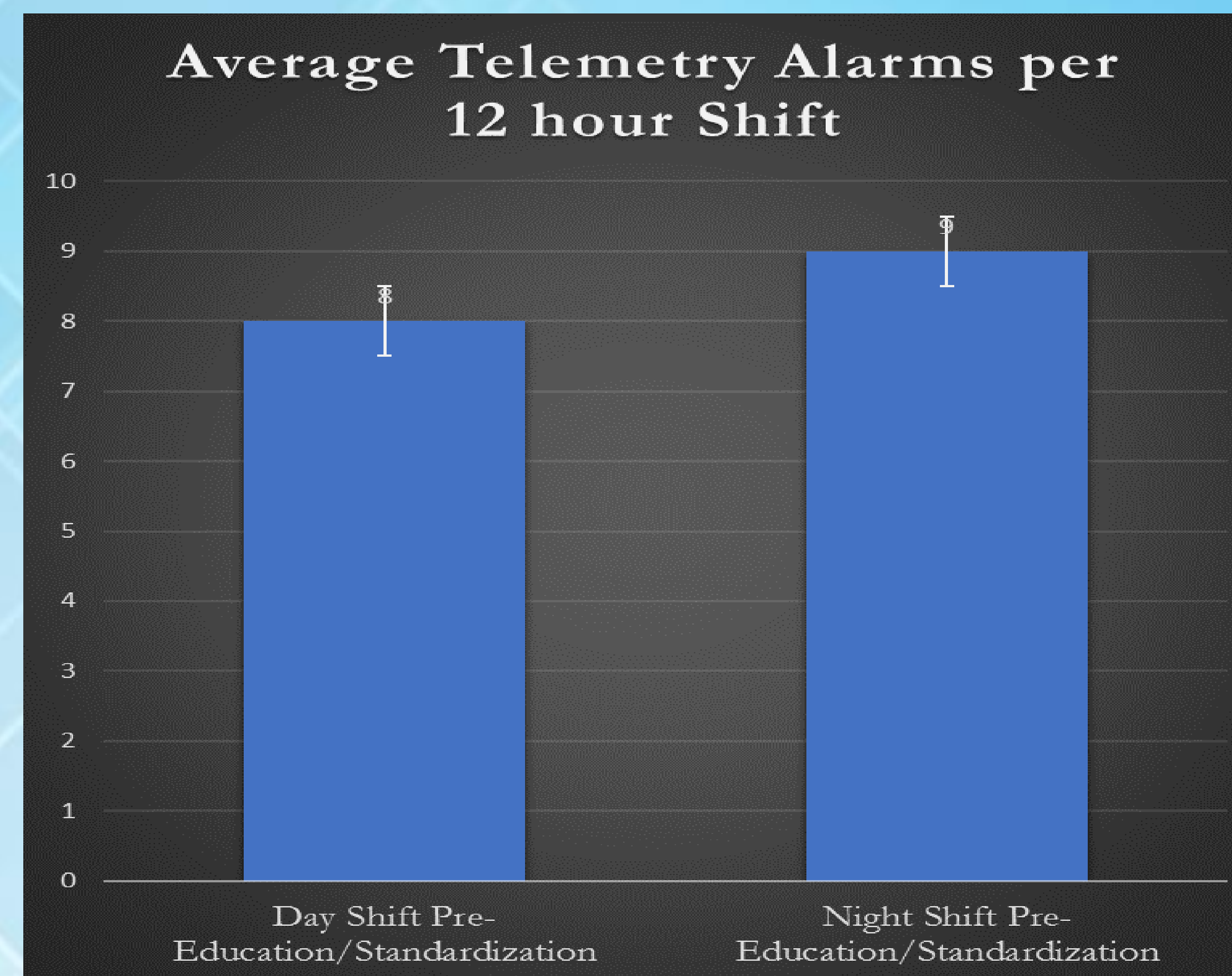
- Will re-educating and developing a standard work process for registered nurses working on medical-surgical units to individualize telemetry alarms impact the number of nuisance telemetry alarms?

## Method

Through surveys conducted on 6T & 7T:

- 91% of nurses experience alarm fatigue due to unnecessary telemetry alarms.
- 41% of nurses customize alarms at some point during the shift, but no standard timeframe.

## Findings



## Evidence

- Alarm fatigue is the desensitization to alarms related to high volume of false or non-actionable alarms or apathy to alarms as a result of the over use of continuous cardiac monitoring (Turmell; et. Al, 2016).
- Between Jan. 2005 and June 2010; 566 alarm related deaths reported. These deaths were attributed to alarm fatigue. (Turmell; et. Al, 2016).
- The American Association of Critical Care Nurses has made alarm safety a priority (Honon et. Al., 2015).

## Recommendations

- Develop standardized validation by adding standardizing alarms to the orientation record for new nurses.
- Patient Care Specialists will ensure all new hire nurses have the Phillips Telemetry module completed by adding the certificate to the nurse's education file.

### REFERENCES

Honan, L., Funk, M., Maynard, M., Fahs, D., Clark, J. T., & David, Y. (2015). NURSES' PERSPECTIVES ON CLINICAL ALARMS. *American Journal Of Critical Care*, 24(5), 387-395 9p. doi:10.4037/ajcc2015552

Turmell, J., Coke, L., Catinella, R., Hosford, T., & Majeski, A. (2016). Alarm Fatigue Use of an Evidence-Based Alarm Management Strategy. *Journal Nursing Care Quality*, 0(0), 1-8p. doi: 10.1097/NCQ.0000000000000223

© 2014 Lehigh Valley Health Network