Our hospital is proud to be a supporter of this collaborative work, making healthcare safer and better for patients and their families.

Kansas healthcare providers are working together to make patients safe. We accomplish this goal by working together on statewide projects in an endeavor to use the same methods or processes, like color-coded wristbands.

Patient Safety: Understanding what your color-coded “alert” wristbands mean.
Statewide Patient Safety Initiatives

Patient safety is a top priority for Kansas. We accomplish this in several ways, one which includes using the same colors for “alert” wristbands. This initiative is not only throughout our state, but in many other states including Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia.

What is a Color-coded “Alert” Wristband?

Alert wristbands are used in hospitals to quickly communicate a certain health care status or an “alert” that a patient may have. This is done so every staff member can provide the best care possible, even if they do not know that patient. The different colors have certain meanings. The words for the alerts are also written on the wristband to reduce the chance of confusing the alert messages.

What do the different colors mean?

There are five different color-coded “alert” wristbands that have been standardized throughout the state.

**RED means ALLERGY ALERT**

If you have an allergy to anything – food, medicine, dust, grass, pet hair, ANYTHING – tell us. It may not seem important to you but it could be very important in the care you receive.

**PURPLE means “DNR” or Do Not Resuscitate**

Some patients have expressed an end-of-life wish and we want to honor that.

**YELLOW means FALL RISK**

We want to prevent falls at all times. Your provider will determine if you need extra attention in order to prevent a fall. Sometimes, a person may become weakened during their illness or because they just had a surgery. When a patient has this color-coded alert wristband, it indicates this person needs to be assisted when walking or they may fall.

**GREEN means Latex Allergy**

When a patient has this color-coded wristband, it indicates an allergic reaction to latex. This green wristband will alert the doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals about your allergy.

**PINK means Restricted Extremity**

When a patient has this color-coded wristband, the health provider is saying this patient’s extremity should be handled with extreme care. Other care providers are alerted to check with the nurse prior to any tests or procedures.

**Involving Patients and Family Members**

It is important that the patient and families know these colors and their meanings because you are the best source of information.

Keep us informed.

If there is information we do not know, such as a food allergy or a tendency to lose balance and almost fall, share that with us because we want to provide the best and safest health care to all of our patients.

Also, if you have an Advance Directive, tell us so. An Advance Directive tells your doctor what kind of care you would like if you become unable to make medical decisions. We want to respect and honor a patient’s wishes and that is done best when we have all of the information.