

Addendum A

Blood Bank Wristband Standardization

CHA's Quality Professionals' Group has made a formal recommendation regarding blood bank wristbands. Due to the unique properties of blood bank wristbands, and limited availability of colors for these types of bands, it has been recommended to not designate a specific color for blood banks wristbands. However, CHA's Quality Professionals' Group believes that it is important to maintain the integrity of the wristband model, and ensure that blood bank wristbands do not compete or interfere with other colored wristbands that have been chosen to designate certain medical conditions. The following recommendations have been suggested for the use of blood bank wristbands:

- Try to use a colored wristband that is not part of the current standardized wristband model (i.e. avoid the use of red, yellow, purple, green or pink colored bands for blood bank wristbands).
- If alternative colors are not available, ensure that the blood bank wristband does not compete with current standardized wristbands.
- If similar colors are used, ensure that the blood bank wristband is unique in design, and is not similar to current standardized wristbands.
- If similar colors need to be used due to lack of availability of alternative colors, choose a color tone that differs from other standardized wristbands (i.e. choose a lime green wristband for blood bank bands so it will not complete with the Kelly green that is used for the latex band)

The purpose of the Colorado Wristband Standardization Project is to increase patient safety and reduce the likelihood of medical errors. Standardization of colored alert wristbands for certain medical conditions helps to reduce confusion, and increase patient safety. Although blood bank wristbands will not have a designated color associated with its use, it is important that blood bank wristbands are used in a fashion to prevent confusion and possible medical error.