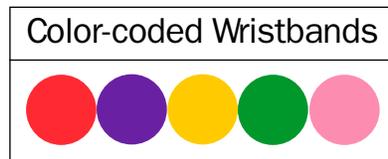


# Making Patients Safe in Indiana

Please visit the Web site of the Indiana Patient Safety Center—  
***indianapatientssafety.org***—for more information.



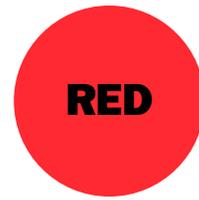
# Banding Together for Patient Safety



# Why Hospitals Use Color-coded Wristbands on Patients

Color-coded wristbands are used within hospitals to communicate a specific health care need or safety risk that a patient might have. This is done so that every staff member within the hospital can provide the best care possible for patients.

- Wristbands tell hospital employees who you are.
- Each color tells your caregiver about a special need that you have.
- Color coded wristbands help protect you.



**Allergy**

Patients wearing a **RED** wristband have notified hospital staff of allergies they may have to things such as medications, foods, dust, grass, or pets.



**DNR**

Some patients express an end-of-life wish that they would like honored in the event of a cardiac arrest. When a patient is wearing a **PURPLE** wristband, it alerts hospital staff to check the patient's medical record for end-of-life directives.



**Fall Risk**

It is important to prevent falls while the patient is in the hospital. When a patient is wearing a **YELLOW** wristband, it alerts all hospital staff that the patient needs help walking or getting up.



**Latex Allergy**

Many products used in hospitals are made of latex and can cause certain patients to have a severe allergic reaction. When patients are wearing a **GREEN** wristband, it alerts hospital staff that they have allergies to products containing latex so that non-latex supplies are used.



**Limb Alert**

Some patients have a condition that restricts the use of a certain arm or leg. Patients with this condition wear a **PINK** band on the affected extremity to alert staff to avoid using this limb for blood draws, IV insertions, and other medical procedures.