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# SURGICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS



## SURGICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS RULES AND ALERTS

INCREASE PATIENT SAFETY AND COMMUNICATION THROUGHOUT  
THE SURGERY DEPARTMENT, WITHOUT INCREASING WORKLOADS

When saving lives, every second counts. Surgical Information Systems Rules and Alerts helps health care staff make the most of every minute by improving patient safety and better managing the perioperative continuum with instant real-time alerts. The technology combines a comprehensive rules engine with a powerful two-way messaging system to provide immediate updates for case, personnel, and event notifications. The results? Reduced medical errors, improved efficiency, and greater patient safety.

Surgical Information Systems Rules and Alerts is the first real-time alert and rules-driven messaging system to be integrated with a surgery management system. With SIS Rules and Alerts, announcements of crucial case milestones, notifications, and even potential medical errors are automatically sent across the SIS network, greatly enhancing communication.

#### Consider the benefits of SIS Rules and Alerts:

- *Increases patient safety with instant, real-time alerts*
- *Improves staff morale by anticipating problems before they occur*
- *Decreases medical errors with automatic or manual alerts*
- *Enables users to establish an unlimited number of rules, customizable to a facility's needs and standards*
- *Enhances communication by automating alerts*
- *Improves compliance with JCAHO accreditation standards by better communicating patient data and status changes to the appropriate staff*

#### How it works

As medical staff enter new information into the system, SIS Rules and Alerts automatically compares that data to pre-defined rules to ascertain if new information fits within previously set parameters. If new data falls outside of the parameters, a real-time alert is triggered, enabling an immediate response. SIS Rules and Alerts generates three distinct types of alerts: case, personnel, and event.

#### Case Alerts

Instant communication of status changes or potential errors helps ensure a positive outcome. Case Alerts notify the medical team of important patient data or changes in patient status as they happen, so the course of care can be altered accordingly. The technology also provides a built-in redundancy system to ensure that careful attention is paid to important details, such as allergies.

For example, if latex gloves were selected in a case when the patient is allergic to latex, an alert would be generated at the point of scheduling and sent to the SIS terminal in materials management. As a result, the case cart would be stocked with appropriate materials and an alert would be sent to scheduling to ensure that the patient is not booked into a room containing latex. Case Alerts is a key feature that can help caregivers improve patient safety by preventing problems before they occur.

#### Personnel Alerts

Personnel Alerts provide immediate alerts of changes in staff member status or location. They help improve efficiency and better manage your surgery department by providing instant information regarding the staff involved in various medical procedures. Important data, based on your criteria and needs, is sent to the right people instantly. For example, if an anesthesiologist were assigned to a case that put him over the limit of patients he can oversee (concurrency rule), an alert would be sent to both the anesthesiologist and the supervisor, helping hospitals improve patient safety and facilitate compliance to Medicare and malpractice insurance regulations.

#### Event Alerts

With Event Alerts, you know exactly where a patient is in the perioperative continuum. Event Alerts notify caregivers of changes in the patient's progress or other important issues. They help improve the effectiveness and functionality of your surgery department by providing information such as whether a surgical case started on time. Automated, early notification of delays helps improve efficiencies and increase staff productivity. For instance, if a case had not been documented as starting to close 30 minutes prior to the next scheduled case, an alert would be sent to the surgical control desk and all surgical team members signed on to the SIS terminals.

**Key capabilities of SIS Rules and Alerts include:**

- *An easy-to-use rules wizard for fast and straightforward creation*
- *Automatic or manual options for launching alerts*
- *Automated problem remediation using the rules engine*

**Increase patient safety while meeting accreditation standards**

Patient safety is a key concern for organizations such as the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). With SIS Rules and Alerts, hospitals can vastly improve the communication of vital patient data and status changes to the appropriate staff. This information is scrutinized by our sophisticated rules engine, offering an immediate system for avoiding potentially adverse patient events.


**SIS Rules and Alerts for perioperative success**

Case, personnel, and event rules and alerts increase patient safety and the efficiency of the surgical department. But the real value occurs when all key phases of the perioperative continuum are automated and tightly integrated—and then enhanced by the automated intelligence of the Rules and Alerts solution. When this happens, the benefits multiply exponentially as each module builds upon the other, providing a rare, comprehensive look at a patient's entire surgical experience. The results are better decision-making, greater efficiencies, increased accuracy, improved processes, and ultimately—improved patient care.

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