# POLICY AND PROCEDURE

**Subject:** Patient Bar Code Wristband **Latest Revision:**

Organizational Level: Inpatient Unit Next Review:

## PURPOSE:

To prohibit the printing of multiple bar code wristbands for the same patient and thereby ensure safe and effective Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA).

## POLICY:

All patients shall receive a bar coded identification wristband when admitted on the unit. The bar coded wristband shall be used for patient identification, Point of Care Testing, and BCMA.

## PROCEDURE:

1. Bar code wristband placement:
   1. Nursing unit staff at an inpatient unit shall print one patient wristband and apply it within 10 minutes of the patient’s arrival on the unit.
   2. Apply the wristband only after the patient is positively identified using two patient identifiers.
2. Reasons to replace a wristband:
   1. The scan device fails to scan the wristband (following two or more attempts).
   2. The wristband is worn out and not readable.
   3. The wristband is removed.
3. Do not print more than one wristband at a time for one patient. Once a wristband is printed, it must be applied to the patient within 10 minutes.
4. Report wristband scanning failures and wristband printer malfunctions to any of the following: Supervisory Clinical Nurse; BCMA Coordinator; Information Technology.