



# Safer Practice Notice

- Status**
- Active
  - Updated
  - Resolved

- Zone Application**
- Provincial
  - North
  - Edmonton
  - Central
  - Calgary
  - South

25 Oct 2018

**For Action By:**

- Nurses
- Educators
- Managers
- Clinical Engineering
- Physicians
- Respiratory Therapists

**Contact:**

Wendy LeMoal  
 Clinical Safety Lead, North Zone  
[wendy.lemoal@ahs.ca](mailto:wendy.lemoal@ahs.ca)  
 780- 841-3210

## Alarm Default Settings-LIFEPAK Monitor/Defibrillator

### Issue

- There may be delays in recognizing patient deterioration if the LIFEPAK audible alarm function has been disabled
- The alarm function may default to the “off” setting to avoid disruption during a code process (See alarm silenced icons below that indicate it is set to “off”)
- When “off” the alarm function may not alert users to a sudden change in a patient’s vital signs
- The LIFEPAK 12, 15 or 20 may be the only cardiac monitoring system in some care settings



### Action

*Health Care Providers:*

- when using the LIFEPAK for **cardiac monitoring**, enable the audible and visual alarms functions i.e. Alarm - Quick Set
- continue to provide routine physical checks of the patient

*Managers:*

- consult with local Clinical Engineering to discuss options for setting the alarm default configuration based on individual site needs
- consult with Educator to arrange vendor training for how to use the Quick Set alarms

This material is intended for use only by Alberta Health Services staff/Medical and Midwifery staffs. External readers should review the information in the context of their own environment to determine applicability. Alberta Health Services expressly disclaims all liability for the use of these materials, and for any claims, actions, demands or suits arising from such use. Further information about this and other Patient Safety Alerts and Safer Practice Notices can be found at:

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/patientsafety>