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ISSUE

Many patients entering emergency departments are unable to communicate verbally whether they have allergies or health problems, which could affect their care.

NENA POSITION

NENA supports the use of bracelet and/or necklace identification that identifies allergies, health problems, and other medical information pertinent to the treatment and care of all *MedicAlert* subscribers. NENA promotes *MedicAlert* educational programs, and the use of *MedicAlert* 24-hour toll free hot line for emergency medical information. NENA promotes the distribution of educational material for the non-profit Canadian *MedicAlert* Foundation in all emergency nursing settings.

RATIONALE

Patient safety and quality care is the goal of emergency nursing. The use of *MedicAlert* helps to ensure potential complications are minimized.

Reference

Canadian *MedicAlert* Foundation. (2008).