



Nurse Call Life Safety Applications Require Accuracy

As the location information provider to over 80% of automated nurse call systems, we've learned a few things.

In order for location information to be useful for Nurse Call (or any application that requires automation of an event), it must be:

1. **Granular.** Room-level accuracy is necessary. Bed-level locating offers additional functionality.
2. **Timely.** Updates every 3 seconds are ideal; more than 10 seconds is considered insufficient.
3. **Reliable.** Location is consistently determined and reported.

Our Record on Nurse Call Integration

Versus initially established the viability of real-time locating in the healthcare market via its integration with nurse call systems to automate nurse registry and call cancellation. Today, five out of the top six nurse call systems integrate location-related data to improve efficiency while enhancing patient care. Versus integrates with virtually all nurse call manufacturers to provide automatic call cancellation to their nurse call systems.

Versus Advantages[™] Nurse Call Integration

- Detects presence of staff in patient rooms
- Integrates to virtually all major nurse call systems to automate relay/light events
- Reduces manual data entry/action (7% efficiency gain)
 - "Registers" caregiver in treatment area
 - Cancels pending patient calls upon nurse presence
- Versus badge programmed for caregiver level
- Badge button can be programmed as desired (typically for "Assistance" call)
- Accurate time stamp of: Who, When, What Room, With Whom and How Long?

Examples of current Versus Nurse Call system integrations include:

- Rauland-Borg Corporation
- SimplexGrinnell (formerly Tyco/Executone)
- Jeron Electronic Systems[®]
- Ascum-Patient Systems US (formerly GE Healthcare/Dukane)
- TekTone[®]
- West-Com Nurse Call Systems Inc.

"With data collected by virtue of the Versus solution, we were able to analyze how long it takes to answer a patient call. With this baseline data, operations developed a new 'hourly rounds' process. Now, we can run a report every month and every floor can compare themselves to the baseline data. Response times have improved by 5% to 12%."

Steve Willis
Clinical Applications System Analyst
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In nurse call applications, Versus badges are worn by caregivers and each badge can be programmed to a certain care level (e.g., RN, LPN, etc.). When the nurse enters a patient's room, the correct nurse present light (for example, blue=RN, red=LPN) turns on, and the patient call light turns off. Upon exit, Versus automatically switches off the light indicating the caregiver is no longer present.

Versus Advantages also keeps a log of all interactions between patients and staff members. As a result, department managers can accurately measure time spent with patients, identify potential bottlenecks, and assess how efficiently patients flow through the department. In addition, if a patient complains that no one checked on him, even though he pressed the nurse call button, you have data on whether the claim is true or not. With the Versus Advantages tracking detail log, it's easy to counter such claims.

Versus automatically gathers the kind of comprehensive data people would be hard-pressed to keep track of manually. But more importantly, it does so with very little human-to-computer interaction. In the end, caregivers receive the information they need, but they don't have to interrupt care for annoying data entry.

How Does It Work?

Badges (worn by patients and staff) or tags (affixed to equipment and charts) emit infrared (IR) and radio-frequency identification (RFID) signals. Ceiling-mounted sensors receive the IR & RFID signals, accurately locating the tag. There can be no false-positives as the sensor is stationary and receives signals based solely on tag presence. Rules-based software disperses location information to Versus and 3rd-party systems for viewing, reporting and automation, improving operational efficiency and business intelligence.

