Quick Look Procedure Resource for NON-CRITICAL CARE staff

What to do in response to a Blood Pressure alarm

WHEN TO PERFORM
1. On hearing the Blood Pressure monitor alarm
2. On changing the patient position

HOW TO PERFORM
a) Look at monitor to take note of why it is alarming
b) Is the monitor displaying a normal arterial waveform
c) Check NIBP

a) Is the transducers position level with the patient’s heart
b) Check that the pressure bag is inflated to 300mmHg

a) Check position of the patient’s limb where the arterial line is inserted
b) Check the site for signs of inflammation, displacement, kinking
c) Does the blood pressure trace change when the limb is moved

KEY SAFETY CONCERNS/WHEN TO CALL FOR HELP
1. Mean arterial blood pressure (MAP) <65mmHg: call for help
2. Decreasing level of consciousness: call for help
3. Never turn alarms off
4. Always ensure that 3 way taps are turned off following blood sampling