10 Steps Toward Safer Alarm Management

1. Issue a Call to Action
   - Shared motivation convinces people of the need for systemic change. Get senior management to commit to solving the challenges, risks, and opportunities of alarm management.

2. Create a Multidisciplinary Team
   - A diverse range of expertise is critical. Bring together a multidisciplinary team to spearhead action and build consensus.

3. Identify Challenges And Opportunities
   - It usually takes some investigation to identify the full scope of alarm management challenges and to develop systemic improvements. Gather data and intelligence—and be open to surprises.

4. Prioritize Risks
   - Use the data from intelligence-gathering efforts to zero in on the patient safety vulnerabilities to address. Then target interventions to make the most impact.

5. Set and Share Goals
   - To implement system-wide changes, formalize your goals, objectives, and activities and share them with institutional leaders to gain approval and funding.

6. Develop and Pilot Potential Solutions
   - Armed with data and institutional approval, develop a pilot project that can become a model for wider-scale implementation. Start by making modest changes with a continuous improvement mindset.

7. Evaluate and Make Adjustments
   - Learn from pilot projects to make the next round of changes go more smoothly and avoid unnecessary expenditures. Gather feedback, communicate findings, and share insights.

8. Develop Policies And Procedures
   - Consider having an overarching alarm management policy with device-specific procedures. Keep in mind that policies and procedures should reflect different solutions in different units.

9. Educate Staff
   - Educate and train staff before, during, and after launching pilots and wider-scale implementations. Make sure they know why changes are occurring and how changes will benefit them and their patients.

10. Scale Up and Sustain
    - Strive to make alarm management “business as usual” for your hospital or healthcare system. Work to cultivate ownership at the unit level, and continue to improve.