Five reasons to consider Alarm Analytics

Big data is not a new thing in the healthcare arena. But it has traditionally been used to measure aspects of the business closer to finance and operations. The data produced by nurse call systems, patient monitors, real time location systems, bed exit sensors, and such is basically deleted, wasting the potential safety and efficiency gains it could bring. Surprisingly EHR systems use only 1% of the data produced by these modalities. The rest goes unused.

Alarm Analytics is the discipline of leveraging the data from "all things that generate alarms and alerts", and using it to make informed, data-driven decisions on how to minimize the tsunami of interrupts and distractions that are pushed to the nursing staff

"There's gold in that data". Applying solid data science principles and intelligent correlation to data sets across multiple sources delivers some solid benefits:

1. It improves patient experience. Two main perspectives here: One involves the nurse and patient relationship, and the other involves a better overall healing experience or conditions for the patient. Rest is good, and noise is the enemy of rest

2. The patient quality team or patient experience team has the data required to manage their business. Alarm analytics provides any metrics they desire, versus the current situation that discards the data that could improve safety, quality and operations

3. It accelerates the pace of change and progress as people can make data driven decisions with a high level of confidence. Having the data silences arguments quickly and gets everyone focused on root cause and/or optimization of processes

4. It basically turns down the noise to help regain sanity in the working and healing environment for all. Noise causes stress for everyone.

5. It improves the quality of job satisfaction for the nursing staff. Which also helps with the cost and pain of nursing resignations. Now is a good time to make nurses happy

It seems like the Healthcare sector never gets a break. Reducing nuisance alarms and unnecessary notifications is the least we can do to help care teams to do their job. Helping the hospital quality teams to quickly identify areas for improvement and track progress is more critical than ever to enable safer and better patient experiences.