

# CASE STUDY

Alternate Care Success Story > Case #307

## Improving Mobility for Patients & Reducing False Alarms for Staff at a Sub-Acute Children's Hospital

Masimo Rad-5® Gives Patients Freedom of Mobility while Masimo Rad-87® and Patient SafetyNet™ Give Staff Peace of Mind with Fewer False Alarms

**Care Facility** : Sub-Acute Saratoga Children's Hospital

**Officials Reporting** : Rose Silver, RN, Director of Nursing; Rodrigo B. Galindo Jr., MSc, Information Systems Coordinator

**Business Case Testimonial** : Mobility, Portability, Remote Monitoring Capabilities with Fewer False Alarms

### > The Situation

Before switching to Masimo five years ago, we were plagued by false alarms. Our previous brand of pulse oximeters had high equipment failure and false alarm rates. It was hugely frustrating because our clinical staff never knew if an alarm represented a real emergency. Since the vast majority of alarms were false—more often the result of a faulty device or sensor—we were constantly sending equipment back for repair. Ultimately, this translated to additional equipment service costs, increased workload for staff, and limited availability of much-needed equipment for patients.

### > The Problem

The biggest cause of false alarms was due to patient motion. Children and infants tend to move around a lot, especially in their cribs at night, which caused the bulk of the false alarm headaches for our staff. Other times the equipment simply failed to report accurate saturation measurements. This put our patients at risk and unfairly burdened our staff with the unnecessary work and frustration of chasing down false patient alarms.

### > The Masimo Difference

After replacing our old oximeters with Masimo Rad-87s and Rad-5s, we realized that all of our prior problems were solved. Masimo equipment functioned properly, didn't alarm falsely or have to be sent back for repair or service. The difference between Masimo and our prior oximetry solution was like night and day even before we got the Patient SafetyNet (PSN) system. Patient SafetyNet gives us double security in that we can hear the alarm going off and the assigned clinician will also get a direct pager notification. Additionally, the pink and blue device profile indicator enables clinicians to quickly glance in the room and see important patient data automatically displayed on the Masimo Rad-87. It's a definite time saver.

We're one of the only hospitals in California with an established school onsite, which makes educational resources accessible to the children. But our old oximeters limited the children's ability to move about freely (without false alarms). One of the reasons we purchased Masimo's wireless-enabled Rad-87s and handheld Rad-5s was because they give the children the freedom to move about the facility and attend school while still enabling us to monitor their health status and track their physiological measurements.

With Masimo Rad-5s, the children are able to experience activities their peers without disabilities experience every day without the hindrance of being tethered to big bulky machines. A recent experience included several patients going off-site—accompanied by nurses, aides, and respiratory therapists—to attend an overnight summer camp in the hills. Patients had an opportunity to (carefully) go into the pool, engage in arts and crafts, socialize with other peers, and simply have a chance to be away from the hospital for one night. For some of the children, it was their first time spending the night outside of the walls of a hospital, which is important to their development and quality of life.

For us, the benefits of switching to Masimo were clear...

- > Near elimination of false alarms
- > Greater mobility for patients
- > Fewer repairs and equipment failures
- > Easy to check alarms

***"Masimo oximeters consistently detect true alarm events and eliminate false alarms. Since implementing the use of the Rad-87 in conjunction with the Patient SafetyNet system at our facility, we feel we are providing the highest level of patient monitoring available."*** — Christy Pybrum, RCP, Director of Respiratory Therapy



Rose Silver and Rodrigo Galindo at the Patient SafetyNet central monitoring station.