

CASE STUDY

Acute Care > Case #107

Baby Escapes Deadly Distress

Masimo Patient SafetyNet™ Alerts Nurse to Infant's Distress — Prompting Lifesaving Intervention

Location	Palmetto Health Children's Hospital in South Carolina
Clinician Reporting	Wendy Hart, RN, MHA, CPN
Patient Event	Moderate sedation; rapid deterioration on a pediatric general care floor

> The Situation

A month-old baby, diagnosed with a severe respiratory tract infection (pertussis or whooping cough), was admitted to the hospital for respiratory distress. The baby was placed in a room at the end of the hallway, where his attentive mother remained vigilant at his bedside. He was also vigilantly monitored by Masimo Patient SafetyNet, a remote monitoring and automated clinician notification system that instantly alerts clinicians to physiological changes in a patient's condition — facilitating earlier detection and rapid response required to preempt critical events.



Wendy Hart, RN, MHA, CPN

> The Problem

Very early one morning, the infant's oxygen saturation and heart rate began dropping rapidly. Despite the audible alarms coming from the bedside pulse oximeter, his exhausted mother continued to sleep. However, because the Patient SafetyNet system was in place, nursing staff were wirelessly alerted to the baby's respiratory distress. A nurse immediately responded to the bedside to find that the baby was already turning blue. His oxygen saturation was now extremely low — with an SpO₂ of 60%, where it had previously been recorded in the 90's by nursing staff. The nurse began to stimulate the baby's breathing reflex and increased oxygen administration. Because the event was caught so early, the baby's oxygen saturation and heart rate recovered quickly, but the baby continued to exhibit circumoral cyanosis and lethargy. The baby's mom awoke after the nurse turned on the lights and called for back-up.

> The Masimo Difference

Unfortunately, pulse oximetry monitoring alone would not have assisted in saving this baby's life. It was obvious that the mom would never have awoken based solely on the beeping pulse oximeter, and the nurse would never have heard the pulse oximeter alarming from down the hallway or through the patient's closed room door. Fortunately, the lifesaving combination of continuous pulse oximetry monitoring and automated, wireless direct-to-pager clinician notifications enabled by the Patient SafetyNet system provided the 24/7 vigilance necessary to avert an unnecessary tragedy. Because the intervention happened so quickly, the baby did not deteriorate to the point of coding. He was able to fully recover in the PICU and was discharged home four days later.

"Masimo Patient SafetyNet made a clear difference in the outcome of this patient. And, because of this incident, my staff appreciates the benefits and value of Patient SafetyNet monitoring."

— Wendy Hart, RN, MHA, CPN