

# State-of-the-Art Security System to be Added at the Firelands Regional Medical Center

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Firelands Regional Medical Center is pleased to announce a new security system that will soon be installed in its maternity/child services unit. The Hugs® security system was purchased by the Firelands Regional Medical Center Auxiliary. The Auxiliary donated the \$90,000 system to the Birthing Center.

The Hugs System is an advanced electronic system for preventing infant abduction. Firelands selected the system for its security, flexibility, and ease of use. As explained by Linda Ricci, RNC, BSN, manager of the obstetrics unit, “While we currently have security measures in place in the unit, the Hugs security system will enhance these efforts and provide parents with complete ‘peace of mind’.”

A state-of-the-art system, Hugs is designed to prevent infants from being removed from the maternity department without authorization. A small tag, which contains a tiny radio transmitter, is placed around the baby’s ankle. If the baby is taken too close to the exit doors in the unit, or if the tag is removed improperly from the baby, the doors will lock and set off the alarm.

The Hugs system is designed to be configured to each individual facility. The system can monitor and map out the precise location of the tag throughout the entire facility and identify what exit doors are being used. If an infant abduction is attempted, a printed report can be generated indicating the exact “movement” of the tag throughout the facility. The system records and logs all activity data with time and date information. It also can be set up to operate with other security systems, such as activating pagers, cameras, public address systems and elevators.

For added security, the tags are individually monitored on a continuous basis. If the tag has not been detected within a specified period of

time, an alarm will activate. Additionally, the tags perform self-checks that indicate any mechanical problems with the components, or low batteries.

Hugs is the smallest tag of its kind available, weighing just one third of an ounce. It has a patented shape of all smooth surfaces, no sharp edges, and no moving parts, making it “baby friendly.” The strap is made of hypoallergenic materials and can be easily adjusted to account for normal infant weight loss. The tag and strap are waterproof, allowing infants to be bathed. Each tag has a unique code to ensure easy identification of every infant.

Linda Ricci indicates, “We are very pleased that the auxiliary identified the obstetrics department as a recipient of their donation. Their generosity has enabled us to continue to enhance our maternal and child services to provide the highest quality of care and safety to our patients and their families.”

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