

# Frequently Asked Questions

## TimeAlert® IV

### Why was TimeAlert® IV developed?

Intravenous tubing needs to be changed according to hospital and regulatory protocols (CDC) to reduce the risk of infection. In a demanding hospital environment, there are instances when human errors occur — wrong start times and change times are written down, writing is illegible, or there is no label or other method of documentation to identify when the tubing needs to be changed. Faced with the risk for potential errors, many clinicians expressed the need for a secondary reminder.

### What is TimeAlert® IV?

TimeAlert® IV is a time-indicating reminder label that allows caregivers to know how long it has been since the tubing was inserted or last changed. It is a self-adhesive label with a button activated, color-changing time indicator on one side, and a written section for documentation on the other side. The simple smart indicator provides a visual cue allowing the caregiver to efficiently keep track of IV tubing changes.

### How does TimeAlert® IV work?

Each indicator contains a white porous membrane through which a dyed liquid travels at a known rate. Once the activation button is firmly pressed, the blue dye will be released from the blister pack and begin to travel from left to right. As time passes, the liquid will continue to travel horizontally across the viewing window. Tick marks in the viewing window show 24 hour intervals to better display time progression.

### How do I know it is working?

After pressing the activation button, you may feel or hear a gentle “pop”. A blue line should appear in the viewing window immediately after the activation button has been pushed. If no line appears, apply more pressure and press the activation button again until the blue line shows.

### How much force is needed to activate the indicator?

Some force is needed to ensure the indicators don't self-activate in shipment, storage, or normal handling. Even so, it's not much harder to pop than bubble wrap!

### What are best practices for activating the indicator?

According to the tests and studies conducted, users find that pushing the button from the left side and rolling to the right makes it much easier to release the liquid, as opposed to pushing it down straight from the top. Less pressure is needed when pushed from the side.

### Why are the tick marks in the viewing window not evenly spaced out?

The technology of the indicator makes it so the liquid moves quickly in the beginning, similarly to a paper towel soaking up a liquid. The material soaks up a lot of liquid at first, then the rate of “wicking” slows down. Therefore, the tick marks are not evenly spaced in the viewing window. TimeAlert® IV time-indicating reminder labels are calibrated to ensure that the dye reaches the mark at the designated time.

### The indication window is completely blue. How do I know how long the indicator has been activated since the window only counts to 24 hours – 7 days?

Refer to the hand-written data in the Date/Time/Initial Fields on the left hand side of the label.



25124 Springfield Court, Suite 200, Valencia, CA 91355  
Tel 800 435 4242 | Fax 800 321 4409  
info@pdchealthcare.com | pdchealthcare.com

# Frequently Asked Questions continued

## TimeAlert® IV

### **Where on the IV tubing should we be applying the label?**

The label should be placed on the IV tubing just under the drip chamber — as close to eye level of the caregiver as possible. If there is more than one line, it is best to stagger the label placement on the lines so that they do not overlap and conceal each other. The indicator side should face the caregiver so it is visible from as many locations as possible.

### **If the time indicator is accurate, why do I have to fill in the written portion?**

The indicator is intended for use as a visual reminder, secondary to the written documentation. The indicator can be used as a visual cue to check the written information more efficiently. The Date/Time/Initial fields should always be filled out first.

### **Can the indicator be used in all environments?**

TimeAlert® IV was specifically designed to be used in a hospital setting. It is calibrated to work most accurately between the temperatures of 65F-75F. Most hospital environments fit within this temperature range.

### **What other alerts are available?**

Currently, there are four TimeAlert® IV products available — 24 hour version (green), 48 hour version (gray), 72 hour version (purple), the 96 hour version (dark orange), and the 7 day version (red).

This product is not a replacement for the professional judgement of professionals and/or policies and procedures that are applicable to your institution.



25124 Springfield Court, Suite 200, Valencia, CA 91355  
Tel 800 435 4242 | Fax 800 321 4409  
info@pdchealthcare.com | pdchealthcare.com

ISHC-021-0819