Motivation

- On intensive care units (ICU), patient monitoring systems cause up to 350 alarms per patient a day, audible for every person.
- The large number of alarms leads to a continuously exceeded noise peak and furthermore a desensitization of caregivers (alarm fatigue).
- A personal alarm distribution system is a promising approach to reduce the alarm load on ICUs.
- Using a head-mounted display, patient alarms and relevant information could be forwarded directly to the responsible nurse.

Implementation

- *Google Glass* was enhanced with an Adafruit microcontroller board and LEDs.
- Three alarm urgency levels (technical, critical, uncritical) are represented with peripherally visual and audible cues.
- The alarm source and relevant information will be shown on the near-eye display.

Evaluation

- The prototype was tested with 15 participants (7 female) during cognition and precision demanding tasks.
- Visual and audible alarms were perceived as similar undistracting. Visual critical alarms were more distracting than the uncritical and technical ones.
- The readability of the display, as well as the alarms’ identifiability, were rated as good for both conditions (light/sound).

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