POLICY

To provide a safe environment for all residents living in the secure memory care unit. To prevent accidents related to wandering and elopement.

PROCEDURES

1. A resident’s risk related to wandering and elopement will be evaluated as part of the preadmission evaluation and upon any resident changes in cognition or functionality. Wandering is defined as movement about the area without a fixed goal. Wandering may be a normal routine for a resident living in a secured unit. Elopement is defined as attempting exiting the secure unit.
   a. A service plan with specific interventions to maintain the resident’s safety will be established and will include the type and amount of supervision to be provided.

2. All exit doors are alarmed/code locked and remain on 24-hours per day.

3. All courtyard doors are secured with an alarm that chimes and sends an alert to the main monitor when the doors are opened. The alarm sounds continuously until manually shut off. The purpose of the continuous alarm is to alert staff that a resident has exited into the secured courtyard area. Staff responding to the alarm should check on the safety of the resident and make sure they are dressed appropriately for the weather. Courtyard doors should remain alarmed 24-hours per day.

4. Door codes will be changed as needed; staff and visitors are instructed to ensure the door is closed tightly after entering or exiting a secured area.

5. A resident actively seeking exit will be placed on visual monitoring every 15 minutes until seeking has stopped to reduce the likelihood of exiting with a visitor.

6. If there is a rare incident where a resident has exited the building or cannot be readily located in the secure unit the resident will be searched for according to Ageia Health Missing Resident Policy & Procedure.

7. All staff will follow the Secure Unit Door Process outlined below:
a. All staff will be trained on the secure unit door alarms/chimes upon orientation
b. Secure unit staff will check all exit and courtyard doors at the beginning of their shift to assure alarm systems are operable.

8. If at any time the alarm systems are not operable the following process will be initiated.

   a. Make sure all residents are safe and accounted for
   b. Notify the facility Administrator (ED) and Health Services Director (nurse) if at any times alarms/chimes are not operable.
   c. Notify all staff via the 24 hour Communication Form
   d. Staff to guard all exit doors preventing resident elopement until the alarms/chimes are operable.

RELATED POLICIES/REFERENCES

Missing Resident Policy and Procedures
24 Hour Communication Book Policy

FORMS

24 Hour Communication Form