Initial Wandering Assessment Guide (Sample)

You may wish to consider the following questions when assessing any new resident. It may help you determine whether a resident should wear a signaling device. Additional conditions unique to your facility, the needs of the resident and wishes of the family should be taken into account. Keep this assessment with the resident’s records as documentation of your decision to monitor or not monitor that resident.

Date __________________________

Resident’s name ________________________________

1. Is this a new admission? □ Yes □ No

2. Is this resident ambulatory? □ Yes □ No
   a. able to walk alone? □ Yes □ No
   b. able to walk with walker or other assistive device or use a wheelchair? □ Yes □ No
   c. able to walk with assistance of others? □ Yes □ No

3. Is the resident resistant to being placed in a long term care home? □ Yes □ No

4. Does the resident have a history of wandering? □ Yes □ No

5. Is the resident currently taking any medication which may cause confusion or disorientation? □ Yes □ No

6. Are there any indications of dementia? □ Yes □ No

Action

If you answered “Yes” to 1 and 2, and any of the other questions, consider placing a 90-Day signaling device on the resident for assessment purposes. Wandering behaviors can increase with changes in residents, so consider monitoring the resident until the next assessment period or until you can determine the wandering risk has decreased.

Note: According to ITT Hartford Insurance Group, 45% of all large loss wandering liability claims are a result of incidents that occur within the first 48 hours of resident admission.