

**Leamington Mennonite Home
Long Term Care**

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

CATEGORY: Resident Care	SUBJECT: Wandering Resident	SECTION: W POLICY: 1
DATE: September 2004	Administrator's Signature: _____	
REVISION DATE: June 2017		

WANDERING RESIDENT

OBJECTIVE:

- To have an organised approach to dealing with a resident who may wander.
- To help prevent or reduce injury to the resident and liability to the Home.

PURPOSE:

- To ensure that all wandering residents are identified.
- To alert staff if a wandering resident attempts to leave the building.

PROCEDURE:

- Once a wandering resident has been identified the medical director will be notified. The family will be called by the Registered Staff to alert them to the problem and discuss methods for managing the behaviour. If a wandergard device is required by the resident, consent for the use of such a device will be requested from the resident's family. Staff will be informed through report regarding the implementation of such a device and/or other precaution to be taken regarding the resident's wandering.
- A wandergard bracelet, when required, will be labelled with the resident's name by the Registered Staff and attached to the resident or their clothing or a mobility aid. Every attempt will be made to explain its need to the resident. The resident or family must sign a consent form (attached).
- Position wandergard on wrist free from jewellery; (eg.) watch or medical alert bracelet to avoid interference.
- The staff alert panel is located at the east nurse's station and will identify which door is being used. When the red light is flashing, there is an alarm occurring at the zone and the tone will sound. Any staff nearest the identified door will check for the wandering resident.
- When the resident is located and brought back into the building, the alarm is reset by pushing 1472 on the keypad.
- This incident is also recorded through report for oncoming shifts.

- To allow a resident to leave the building under supervision, the family member or staff must first punch in the appropriate code which is 1234* at that specific exit. The resident then has 0-30 seconds to pass through the door. The alarm sounds when a resident is leaving unattended, and on re-entering the building.
- If the Registered Staff and/or Physician deems the use of a wanderguard is necessary, the family shall be required to sign a consent.
- If a wandergard is required but the family is not in agreement, the family will be requested to submit in writing their decision to withhold the use of wandergard.