

Roam Report

A newsletter on wander prevention

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Proactive wander prevention

Brethren Village takes a comprehensive approach to assessing wander risk

Brethren Village, in Lancaster, PA, is an continuing care retirement community of more than 800 residents. Offering a range of senior care options on its 160 acre campus, from independent cottages to full-service assisted living, Brethren Village's goal is to provide a stable and caring environment for seniors as their needs change.

"We do an assessment for elopement risk on every incoming resident, and have them wear a bracelet for three months."

It's a tradition that Brethren Village had maintained since it opened its doors in 1897 as the "Home for the Homeless."

A key part of today's Brethren Village is the Health Care Center, which provides skilled nursing services to approximately 175 residents.

The Health Care Center uses the RoamAlert system to monitor all perimeter doors, with the exception of the main entrance, which is staffed on a 24-hour basis.

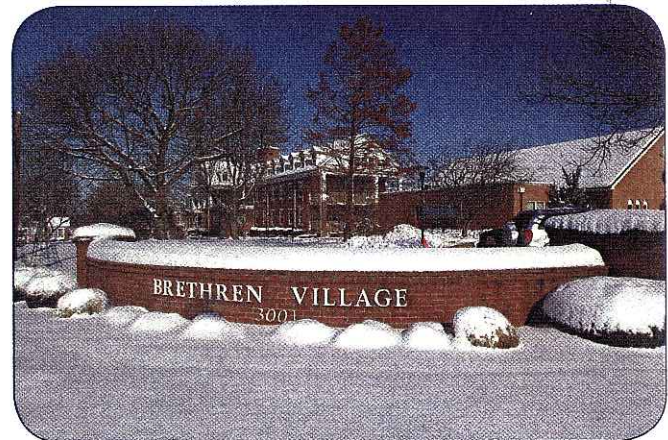
Brethren Village takes a proactive approach to wander prevention, according to Sandra Griffin-Bukowski, Vice-President of Health & Wellness and Nursing Home Administrator. "We do an assessment for elopement risk on every incoming resident, and have them wear a [RoamAlert] bracelet for three months."

Anxiety and confusion are common responses to a change in environment, she says, and the three-month trial period gives staff time to evaluate each resident fully.

At the end of this period, the staff of Brethren Village review both information from the RoamAlert system and the resident's medical chart to determine whether he/she should continue to be monitored.

"The [RoamAlert] system gives us important identifiable information on the resident," notes Ms. Griffin-Bukowski.

Even after the evaluation period, almost 90% of the residents in the Health Care Center remain monitored by the RoamAlert system. It's an effective way to ensure that residents are safe, with a minimum of intrusion on personal freedom. ■



Brethren Village, Lancaster, PA

Door Bypass & Alarm Guide

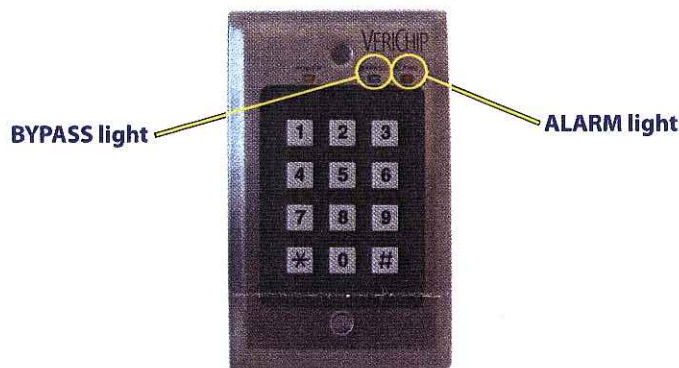
Escorting a Resident

1 With the resident away from the door, enter the **bypass code** followed by the **# button** on the keypad.

The BYPASS and ALARM lights on the keypad flash alternately and, if there is a Maglock on the door, it is released.

2 You have **10 seconds** after entering the bypass code to enter the field around the door with the resident; and **90 seconds** to escort the resident through and close the door, or a Wander Alarm is triggered.

3 Take the resident through the door. Rearming occurs automatically as soon as the door closes.



RoamAlert keypad

Wander Alarm Pre-Alert

When a resident approaches a closed doorway, a Wander Alarm Pre-Alert occurs: the ALARM light on the keypad flashes slowly, and the keypad emits short chirps. To clear the Pre-Alert, simply escort the resident away from the door within 55 seconds. After this time has expired, a Loiter Alarm occurs.

Accepting an Alarm

When a resident approaches an open doorway (Wander Alarm), or has been in the area of the door for more than 55 seconds (Loiter Alarm), the ALARM light on the keypad flashes rapidly, and the keypad chirps repeatedly. Follow this procedure to accept the alarm.

1 Locate the resident, and escort him/her to a safe location away from the door.

2 Enter the **reset code** followed by the **# button** on the keypad to accept the alarm.

It may take a few seconds for the keypad to stop chirping, as the system checks to make sure that no residents are still near the exit.

3 Ensure that the door is closed. Rearming occurs automatically as soon as the door closes.

This guide assumes that the Mode switch on the Door Controller is set to Mode 2. With this setting, a Wander Alarm Pre-Alert clears automatically, while a Wander Alarm must be cleared manually. Procedures will be different if other Mode settings are used.