

## **WANDERING/ELOPEMENT**

### **PURPOSE:**

To protect a cognitively impaired resident from leaving the facility unsupervised.

Elopement definition per OAC 3701-17-01: occurs when a resident leaves a home or safe area without the facility's knowledge or without supervision. A situation in which a resident with decision making capabilities leaves the home will not be considered an elopement unless the home has reason to suspect, or the circumstances surrounding the resident's departure indicate that the departure is unusual or atypical.

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. The facility will screen residents for elopement risk based on history obtained during pre-admission process if possible.
2. An admission picture will be taken of all residents, which is uploaded into the EHR. The photo is updated periodically as resident's condition changes.
3. An elopement risk assessment will be completed on admission, with a change in condition and with any attempt to leave the facility unplanned or unsupervised. The elopement risk will also be reviewed quarterly with the MDS review.
4. When a resident is identified as a wanderer, the facility will identify the need for regular monitoring of the resident's whereabouts each shift and will include the frequency of monitoring. Additional interventions may include the use of a Wander Guard or placement on a secured unit if applicable.
5. The resident's plan of care will be updated.
6. The wandering Resident Identification Form will be initiated by Social Service. The resident will have his/her picture taken and it will be placed with the Resident Identification Form. The Director of Nursing or a delegated person will see that all departments have been informed and the signatures obtained for this form. The form is placed in the wandering resident notebook.
7. The maintenance department will do a weekly maintenance check of the automatic locking system on the entrance/exit doors and Wander Guard System (if applicable) and will document on the maintenance form for weekly checks.
8. The facility will check and document that Wander Guard bracelets are in place for each resident with an ordered Wander Guard device q shift.
9. The facility will perform weekly function checks of the Wander Guard bracelet/sensor and will check the device expiration date and replace as needed (if applicable).
10. The facility will hold Elopement drills at least quarterly.
11. If a resident should leave the facility (Elope) the facility will immediately follow the Missing Persons procedure and will document on the Elopement Record.
12. Elopements, per definition in OAC 3701-17-01 paragraph (j), will be reported to ODH. If the elopement was a result of neglect, the elopement will be reported through the EIDC, self-reported incidents. An elopement not related to neglect will be reported via encrypted e-mail to [BLTCQ@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:BLTCQ@odh.ohio.gov).
13. The facility will follow QAPI guidelines to investigate and use RCA to determine the root cause of the elopement to implement measures/actions to prevent future events.

