MedicAlert® + safe return alzheimer's association®

Wandering: Who's at risk?

Call MedicAlert® + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return® today if you know someone who:

- Returns from a regular walk or drive later than usual.
- Tries to fulfill former obligations, such as going to work.
- Tries or wants to "go home" even when at home.
- Is restless, paces or makes repetitive movements.
- Has difficulty locating familiar places like the bathroom, bedroom or dining room.
- Asks the whereabouts of current or past friends and family.
- Acts as if doing a hobby or chore, but nothing gets done (e.g., moves around pots and dirt without actually planting anything).
- Appears lost in a new or changed environment.

This is an abbreviated list of risk factors. For more, visit alz.org/safereturn.

MedicAlert® + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return® is a 24-hour nationwide emergency response service for individuals with Alzheimer's or related dementia who wander or who have a medical emergency.

For more information, call the Alzheimer's Association at 1.800.272.3900

For enrollment, contact us at **1.888.572.8566** or visit **alz.org/safereturn**

Myths of Wandering >

It's no myth that up to 60 percent of those with dementia will wander. MedicAlert® + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return® can help you make more informed choices about safety and overcoming the misconceptions of wandering.

"I watch my wife very closely."

It only takes a moment for someone to wander away. This is just as true in your home as it is at the mall or grocery store. No one can be watched every second. Even the most diligent caregiver has to sleep, bathe or talk on the phone.

"My mother has never wandered."

If your family member is memory-impaired and able to walk, wandering can happen at any time. If wandering has already occurred, it will happen again.

"My husband won't wear an ID bracelet."

Other identification products are available, such as a necklace.

"We've explained to my dad why he should not go out by himself."

It's unlikely he'll remember he has been told not to go out alone. Plus, as the disease progresses, he will increasingly lose his ability to make good judgments and think logically.

"I haven't had time to get my husband signed up with MedicAlert + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return."

The simple form takes only a few minutes to complete. Enroll online or by telephone, mail or fax.

"My mother is in a nursing home."

Your mother could easily wander away from a facility – even a locked unit. Wandering can also occur when you've taken your mother home for a family visit.

"I can't afford the MedicAlert + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return enrollment fee."

Funds may be available for those in need. Request financial assistance at your local Alzheimer's Association office.

"When my husband wandered, the police found him."

A person with memory loss may not be able to provide his name or address to the person who finds him. Even though your family member has been returned home by police once, you may not be so lucky next time. 99% of those enrolled in MedicAlert + Alzheimer's Association Safe Return are returned safely, compared to less than 50% for those not enrolled.

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