

# CONNECTICUT VALLEY HOSPITAL

## Physical Therapy Services

### PT Equipment Procedure # 32

**Re:** Personal Alarm

**Date:** March 20, 2000

**Reviewed:** October 19, 2008

#### **Description:**

The Posey Personal Alarm is designed to alert staff to the patient's/resident's movement beyond a predetermined distance. The alarm may be set to one of five different tones; therefore, specific tones can be assigned to specific clients. This allows staff to quickly determine which client requires immediate attention. The alarm can be mounted to a wheelchair, geri-chair or bed frame with a saddle-mount, or directly to a surface with an adhesive hook and loop attachment.

#### **Purpose:**

To quickly and efficiently alert staff to a client's movement beyond a predetermined distance.

#### **Indications:**

Clients who are at risk of falling; not safe to mobilize independently; have poor memory and are unaware of limitations.

#### **Procedure:**

- 1.) Setting alarm tone - The personal alarm may be set to one of five tones. By pressing the tone selector button, a two-second trial of each tone can be heard. The last tone heard will automatically become your selected tone.
- 2.) Mounting the alarm - Choose a secure location out of reach of the client. Use the saddle mount for wheelchair or bed frame. Use adhesive mount for flat surface (night stand or head board).
- 3.) Connecting to client - Determine the safety zone and adjust the cord length (31 - 60 inches). Attach the clip to patient near his/her shoulder on a piece of clothing that he/she is not likely to remove and is out of his/her reach.
- 4.) Maintenance - Check the alarm function before each use by disengaging the magnetic block from the metal plate. Replace the 9-volt battery when necessary. If the hook and loop does not adhere, clean the hook by brushing it with a stiff brush.