

Front of Card  
4.5x3

# AT-RISK PATIENTS

## Recognizing the Signs for Potential Wandering and Missing Patients



[www.PatientSafety.va.gov](http://www.PatientSafety.va.gov)



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### At-Risk Patient Behavior(s)

- Anxiety/Stress
- Confusion
- Depression
- Hallucinations/Delusions
- Pacing or Exit Seeking
- Restlessness
- Verbalizing Intent to Leave / Worried About Something Outside the Facility
- Wandering

### When Communicating With Patients ...

- Speak Clearly
- Use a Calm Voice
- Make Visual Cues to Re-Enforce Your Words
- Make Eye Contact
- Get His/Her Attention by Motion or Touch
- Look for Facial Signs of Understanding
- Ask "Yes" or "No" Questions and Use Short Simple Phrases