Frequent ambulation within the facility
Frequent ambulation interrupts necessary activities
Regularly loses one's way indoors

Trespasses into off-limits areas
Frequent night ambulation
States intent to leave/ask for directions on how to leave facility regularly
Looks at watch frequently
Regularly contacts someone from outside of facility to pick them up
Drawing stimulus (i.e., looks out the window frequently)

Frequent exit door lingering and testing
Regularly seeks means or opportunity to exit
Pattern of preparing to go outside (i.e., carrying or holding jacket, putting on extra clothes, carrying bag/purse, looks for car)

Lost within the community
Is missing, has eloped, has lost one's way exterior to care

Education and awareness
Developing a plan of preventative strategies
Watch for signals seen in medium and high risk
Design facility that promotes wandering
Register under a vulnerable persons registry if available*
Identification strategies (e.g., ID tags/kit/bracelet)*

Redirection strategies
Exercise with a partner or wear a locating technology
Engagement of activities throughout the day*

Locating technologies
Alarms/surveillance
Locks and barriers
Buddy system*

Call 911 immediately
Search and rescue methods
Community involvement

Can transition to lesser or greater levels of risk at any moment
Need to apply education and proactive strategies as soon as possible so can still encourage safe wandering

NOTE: Strategies with a star (*) next to it could be applied to any risk level
LIST OF AVAILABLE STRATEGIES

Low Risk

- Keep a list of people to call on for help
- Education and awareness
  - Finding Your Way Program (http://findingyourwayontario.ca)
- Design facility that promotes wandering (i.e., secured gardens outside and/or inside, lots of room to walk indoors)
- Register participant with the Vulnerable Person Registry (if available) or with an identification program
  - MedicAlert (https://www.medicalert.ca)
- Place identification information on items of clothing, or objects they regularly use (i.e., walker, wallet)

Medium Risk

- Distraction/redirection strategies
  - Providing meaningful activities (i.e. chores, tasks, etc.) or play music that they grew up to
  - Increase staff/resident interactions
  - Install signs to assist in way-finding
  - Provide areas that allow the person to wander (i.e. enclosed gardens, larger areas to walk, etc.)
- Try to understand the underlying causes of wandering and exit seeking behaviour among the resident. Many times, these behaviours are due to certain needs not being met such as them being hungry, lonely, or do not identify the care home as where they live.
- Integrate exercise programs or classes into their everyday routine
- Engagement of simulating activities throughout the day to keep the resident busy

High Risk

- Use devices that signal when a door or window is opened
- Avoid busy places that are confusing and can cause disorientation
- Install door murals (camouflaged exit doors), place mirrors or curtains in front of the exit door
- Increase supervision (i.e., locating devices or a buddy system)
- Consider locating technologies:
  - GPS (https://tech.findingyourwayontario.ca)
  - RFID (https://projectlifesaver.org)

Unplanned Absence

- Call 911 immediately DO NOT wait 24-48 hours to alert the police. The police want to know right away about the missing person even if you find them soon after.
- Keep up to date information relating to each resident on hand such as a photo, name, height, weight, physical description and emergency contact information in a safe place such as a binder or computer file. In the event the resident has gone missing this information can be quickly forwarded to the police.
- Notify the community to keep a look out for the missing person