

REAL TIME LOCATION SYSTEM - CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

Technology is changing the way we live our lives and do our jobs. Recent developments in wireless technologies are having an impact in the skilled nursing home industry. The Real Time Location System is just one example.

IntelligentInSites, supplier of the Real Time Location (RTL) System, describes it as a platform from which they can launch many communication systems. The configuration of these systems is dependent upon the needs of the individual nursing facility. In the case of the Baptist Home, the RTL System can replace the nurse call light system, the beeper and overhead paging system, the falls alarm system, the elopement alarm system and the charting system for CNAs and Nurses.

Here is a more detailed explanation of our current situation and how the RTL System would work.

Presently we use an antiquated system of call light buttons and cords that is hardwired into the building. The system is not integrated between areas of the building, and maintaining it is time consuming and costly, with parts becoming increasingly difficult to acquire. It is activated when a resident is in their room or bathroom and the button is within reach of a resident who is able to push it, which is not always possible for all residents. The current system is not helpful, of course, when a resident is out of their room.



The Real Time Location System uses wireless technology. Residents wear an inconspicuous button, thereby having access to the system at all times. Besides responding when a resident activates it, this system can be triggered whenever a resident falls or is at risk of elopement, notifying staff via their Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) and allowing for faster staff response time for these situations. The PDA shows the resident's name, their location, and the time and nature of the alarm (fall, elopement, nurse call, etc.)



Button residents wear

Any resident can be found anywhere, anytime within the facility's monitored zones and on the grounds outdoors. This is especially helpful to quickly locate a resident when he or she needs medication, has a visitor or needs assistance. If a resident requires restriction from a particular area, his device can be programmed for that.

This single wireless system eliminates the need to invest in (and maintain) several systems for different functions. It covers them all! And by allowing staff to know where a resident is located, the resident can confidently go about their daily activities knowing that caregiver help is just a quick call away. The button is motion sensitive, notifying staff if a resident has been motionless for too long or restless all night, or if the device has been removed from the resident's clothing.

In addition to monitoring residents, this technology can be used to track the location of key pieces of equipment. For example, resident transfer lifts are shared between many rooms. When one is needed for a resident, staff could easily locate the closest available lift, eliminating search time and delays for the resident. CNAs and Nurses could do their charting on their PDAs as soon as they finish cares for a resident, and the data could be transferred from there to the proper file. Acquiring a wireless system with this capability will improve staff efficiency and service to residents.

The Real Time Location System would integrate communication between areas of the building and is easily maintained. Most problems can be taken care of over the phone. The system eliminates the need to check each individual resident's device as staff is automatically alerted when a battery is low or a component is not functioning properly. This feature alone will save hours of staff time. Because the system is wireless, installation does not interfere with the facility's layout, design or décor. It can easily be expanded as needs arise, or be moved to another facility in the event of an expansion project.

And this system will not become obsolete – as new technology and upgrades become available, they can easily be added to the system.

The Baptist Home plans to begin implementing this system in stages, replacing the oldest call light systems first. In implementing the Real Time Location System, our goals and objectives are to:

1. improve resident safety through more reliable monitoring of resident activities,
2. provide a quicker means of locating a resident and determining the type of response required when the device is activated (i.e., fall, elopement risk, etc.),
3. provide residents with a portable and multi-functioning tool for calling staff when help is needed,
4. increase staff efficiency, and
5. increase staff ability to respond quickly and appropriately to residents' needs.

Funding for this project will come from many sources. Grant applications are going out to a number of charitable foundations. Contacts will be made with many local businesses. Interested individuals will also have an opportunity to combine their resources in helping this major project get started and move forward through the several stages of installation and implementation.

Our Board of Directors is contributing to the fund, and employees are enthusiastically supporting it too. In just 12 days we raised over \$240.00!

If you would like to know more about the Real Time Location System, please

contact Resource Development
Coordinator Kathy Klempel at
resourcedevelopment@baptisthome-
nd.org.

Please consider making a contribution to
help us implement this great tool. Mail
your tax deductible donation to:

Baptist Home, Inc.
1100 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501

Designate the gift for “New Call Light
System”.

We appreciate your support!