

Alert on Alarm Modifications

Today, some LTCs purchase personal alarms at radio shops and convert them into pull string patient fall-monitors. This practice is both dangerous and illegal. A non-medical grade alert puts patients and residents at risk for strangulation because these personal alarm conversions do not allow for a multidirectional release of the pull-pin.

Strangulation accidents from cord entanglement with non-medical pull-pin alerts have already occurred. ³Radio shop² personal alarms allow for only a narrow range of angles that engage the pull-pin. Too sharp an angle and the pull-pin will not release from the controller causing the alert not to sound while posing a serious choking hazard.

In addition, personal alarms are considerably louder than medical-grade anti-fall monitors because they are designed to scare away thugs. OSHA regulations call for an 88 decibel limit on anti-fall monitors. ³Radio shop² conversions are around 110 decibels (Remember they are designed to scare away bad guys).

Lastly, personal alarms are not built for the riggers and use typical of most care giving facilities. They break easily and are not reliable for purposes of patient monitoring.

Personal alarm conversions are dangerous and after the expense of turning a personal alarm into a anti-fall alarm-cost no less than Medical Grade anti-fall alerts.

Smart Caregiver's Medical-Grade Magnet Monitor Alert is \$19.; less than the cost of a personal alarm and conversion and far less than a lawsuit. Call 800 650 - 3637.