

Provided by the Alzheimer's Association®, this guide is designed to help clinicians and other medical professionals assess potential safety concerns and other resources to patients living with dementia and their caregivers.

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If the patient or caregiver answers yes to questions 1 and 3-7 or no to question 2, refer to the Safety Assessment Guide for further evaluation. When working with patients living with dementia, it is recommended that you also consult with a family member, friend or caregiver, as the patient's judgment, memory and decreased cognitive skills may impact insight into the illness and the ability to provide accurate reporting.

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Wandering and getting lost

Getting lost can occur at any stage of the disease; however, wandering behavior often occurs during the middle stage. It's important to educate the person with dementia and their family/caregiver about the possibility of wandering and getting lost, and how to be prepared.

Questions to ask patient	Questions to ask family/caregiver	Considerations	Resources
Have you ever gotten lost in places that are familiar to you?	<p>Has the patient ever come home much later than expected without an explanation?</p> <p>Does the patient ever try to leave the house or ask to "go home" when he or she is already at home?</p> <p>Has the patient ever gotten lost going to or coming from a familiar place?</p>	<p>For the person who is still independently active in the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make sure the person has an In Case of Emergency (ICE) contact in his or her phone.• Consider enrolling in a wandering response service. Contact the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline (800.272.3900) for more information.• Consider using technology such as GPS devices or mobile apps that offer location tracking services. <p>For the person who is at risk for wandering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set up structured and engaging activities throughout the day to help discourage wandering behavior. Include exercise, if possible.• Disguise the exits with wall hangings.•	

