

Supporting Residents at Risk of Becoming Lost



Did You Know: the [Alzheimer Society of Canada](#) notes **six in ten people living with dementia are at risk of getting lost.**

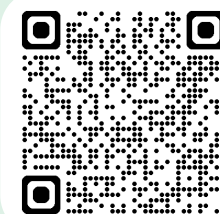
With **94% of Ontario's licensed retirement homes caring for residents diagnosed with dementia**, it's important that licensees and operators consistently take steps to reduce the risk of residents becoming lost or going missing.

Here Are 3 Key Requirements That Can Help



Assess Residents Regularly

- **Reassess residents at least every six months**, or sooner if there is a change in care needs and/or behaviour changes.
- Keep **plans of care up-to-date and accessible for staff.**
 - See [Assessments and Plans of Care Compliance Assistance Module](#) for in-depth guidance.



Implement Supports for Residents at Risk

- **Implement behaviour management strategies**, including individualized techniques, strategies, monitoring, and clear staff reporting protocols.
 - See [Behaviour Management Compliance Assistance Module](#) for in-depth guidance.
 - Consider your physical environment and how to best support resident safety (e.g., entrances, exits).



Be Prepared to Respond (Code Yellow)

- **Train staff** at least annually on the Emergency Plan involving a missing resident.
- **Test the Emergency Plan** at least annually.
 - See [Emergency Planning Compliance Assistance Module](#) for in-depth guidance.



If Your Retirement Home Offers a Dementia Care Program

- It must follow **evidence-based practices**, be **evaluated every year**, and be **supervised by a regulated health profession** under the Regulated Health Professions Act.
- To see all requirements, please review section 41 of the [Regulation](#).

Prevention and Preparedness

By keeping **assessments and plans of care up to date**, applying **individualized behaviour management strategies**, and ensuring **staff are trained on your missing-resident response**, you can strengthen your home's readiness and reduce the risk of a resident becoming lost. These practical steps can help protect resident well-being and demonstrate compliance.

Now is a good time to review your processes and make sure they are working as intended.