



BERKS COUNTY HOME—BERKS HEIM

TITLE: VERY INDEPENDENT PERSON (VIP) PROGRAM

2803-180

- POLICY
- PROCEDURE
- JOB DESCRIPTION
- GUIDELINES

PREPARER
DIRECTOR OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

EFFECTIVE
08-1993
REVISED
08-2006
REVIEWED

A/R

OF PAGES = 1

DISTRIBUTION: ALL MANUALS

POLICY:

Residents who are able to be outside alone safely are to be identified as such by use of a Very Independent Person (VIP) badge.

PURPOSE:

1. To differentiate between residents who are able to be outside alone safely from those who are unsafe outside alone.
2. To save staff time and to avoid staff/resident conflicts by needlessly returning independent residents to their units.
3. To preserve the dignity of both groups of residents.

POLICY:

1. Nursing, in conjunction with Social Services, is responsible for identifying residents who are safe to be outside alone and for orienting residents to this program.
2. Residents, who have been so identified, are to request a VIP badge prior to leaving the unit and return it upon re-entering the unit.
3. The resident is to display the badge on the right or left lapel. If a resident requires assistance in donning the badge, Berks Heim staff will provide it.
4. Security will return any resident without a badge, discovered on rounds, to his/her respective unit.
5. Other staff, regardless of department, should attempt to return the resident, without a badge to his/her unit in a non-threatening manner. If unable, contact should be made with the appropriate unit for assistance.
6. Under no circumstances should a resident without a badge be left alone outside if he/she is unwilling to return inside. The identifying staff member should remain with the resident until assistance arrives. The exception to this is the time that it takes to call for assistance.
7. There may be times when residents who are safe to be outside alone do not have badges. These individuals are to be returned to their units for donning of badges.