



Personal Emergency Response Systems

"PERS"

Help is just a push of
a button away



What is a PERS? PERS is a Personal Emergency Response System. They are small transmitters (help buttons) that you wear. Help buttons are either a nifty wrist band (looks like a watch) or a discrete pendant (that can be worn under clothing.)

When you push the button, a signal is sent to a console attached to your phone. This console sends your call for help to a monitoring center. A specially trained attendant will call you to see how they can help. If you need someone, they will call them for you—or call an ambulance if you need it. If you cannot answer the phone, the attendant will send emergency personnel. You can rent a unit (with a monitoring center) or you can buy a unit and you program it yourself.

A simple, safe way for you to live independently.

How PERS Works

Press the button



Signal goes through
the phone to the



Monitoring Center
who summons help
from



Family

Friends

Neighbors

Ambulance

EMT'S

Or whoever you choose.

Do you need a PERS?

- ⇒ Are you prone to falling?
- ⇒ Do you take 5 or more medicines?
- ⇒ Do you use a cane, walker or wheelchair? Do you hold on to furniture to steady yourself?
- ⇒ Do you have a "chronic" illness such as respiratory problems, heart disease, diabetes, stroke, etc?
- ⇒ Are you dizzy or unsteady on your feet?
- ⇒ Are you alone for several hours during the day or night?

If yes to some of the above, you should seriously consider getting a **Personal Emergency Response System—PERS.**

INTERESTED????

- ⇒ Most units are rented for about a dollar a day (\$30 per month). There is also a one time installation fee. Some companies offer special discounts so be sure to check.
- ⇒ Medicaid will cover the cost of the units under certain circumstances. Medicare does NOT cover the units.
- ⇒ Help buttons will only work inside your immediate home. They do not work in your yard or garden, stores, malls etc.

*Great peace of
mind for you and
your family.*

Some questions to ask when shopping for a PERS unit:

- ✓ How long have you been in business?
- ✓ Must I sign a long-term agreement? How long?
- ✓ Who will be monitoring the calls?
- ✓ What back up systems do you have, to insure uninterrupted service?
- ✓ Are your buttons waterproof so that they can be worn in the shower?
- ✓ What happens if my electricity goes off?
- ✓ Can I use this system with DSL? VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol—telephone through the internet
- ✓ Will the alarm work if my phone is off the hook? If I am on the Internet?
- ✓ Do I need special phone jacks or wiring in order to have your system installed?

Also ask:

- ▶ How do I get this unit fixed? How long will it take to get this unit fixed?
- ▶ How long does it take to get a response after I press my button?
- ▶ What happens if I cannot talk or respond to you after I press my button?
- ▶ What happens if I accidentally set off the alarm?
- ▶ Can I use the alarm to summon help from my family?
- ▶ Are there any accessories/ systems such as vials of life, key vaults, medication minders, smoke/fire alarms, fall alerts, daily calls, etc. that can be used with the PERS units?

There are many places where you can rent or buy **PERS** units. For more information contact:

***NY Connects-Choices for
Long Term Care in Herkimer
County***

(315) 867-1415

Visit us on the web at www.herkimercounty.org then see: NY Connects: Choices for Long Term Care in Herkimer County for more information on long term care issues.

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