



Posey Company

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FAQ No.: 45

FAQ: Fall Monitors Frequently Asked Questions

Q. WHAT ARE FALL MONITORS?

A. Fall monitors are electronic monitoring systems designed to help prevent falls in settings where continuous surveillance of patient/resident is not possible. When the patient/resident attempts to get out of bed or chair the alarm will sound either locally (in the room) or activate the nurse call signal. In addition to providing an immediate warning of a potential fall, fall monitors can be used as an assessment tool in determining the appropriate fall prevention protocol.

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A FALL MONITOR?

A. Fall monitors DO NOT prevent falls. The purpose of a fall monitor is to provide the earliest possible warning that a patient/resident is attempting to exit their bed or chair and is an immediate risk of falling.

Q. WHAT TYPES OF FALL MONITORS ARE AVAILABLE?

A. The Posey company offers two “types” of fall monitors; those that work with a magnet and pull cord, and those that work with pressure sensitive pads.

With magnet and pull cord monitors, a string or “pull cord” is clipped to the back of the patient/resident’s clothing. The other end is connected to the alarm unit with a pre-connected magnet. When the patient/resident moves far enough away from the alarm unit to detach the magnet the alarm will sound to notify the caregiver. The length of the pull cord may be adjusted to accommodate patient/resident’s individual needs.

Fall monitors that operate with pressure sensitive pads – The sensor pad is connected to the alarm unit with a pre-connected “phone jack” connection. The sensor pad is then positioned under the patient/resident, usually under the buttocks area. When weight is removed from the sensor pad, such as an unassisted bed or chair exit, the alarm will sound to notify the caregiver.

Q. WHICH ALARMS WORK WITH MAGNET & PULL CORD AND WHICH ALARMS WORK WITH SENSORS?

A.

Magnet & pull Cord Operation

8202L Personal Alarm Loud

8203 Personal Alarm II

Sensor Operation

8350 KeepSafe Alarm

8281 Sitter II Alarm

Q. WHAT TYPE OF POWER SOURCE IS REQUIRED FOR POSEY FALL MONITORS?

A. All Posey Fall Monitors are battery operated using commercially available 9Volt, "AA", or "C" Cell batteries depending on the model Fall Monitor you are using.

Q. WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF BATTERY POWERED FALL MONITORS?

A. Battery operated fall monitors are portable, therefore providing greater versatility of use. All Posey Fall Monitors can be easily moved from bed to chair. This helps ensure continuous, uninterrupted patient monitoring.

Q. HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO CHANGE THE BATTERIES?

A. All Posey Fall Monitors have a low battery indicator. Depending on the model you are using the fall monitor will have a low battery indicator light or will emit an audible sound to alert staff that batteries need changing.

Q. WHAT TYPE OF SENSORS ARE AVAILABLE?

A. There are several sensor options available for use in bed or chair.

Bed Sensors

#8283 Disposable Bed Sensor – This is a 30-day "over the mattress" sensor which is recommended for short-term stay patient/residents.

#8290 Extended Life Sensor Pad - This is a disposable 6-month sensor that is recommended for longer stays.

#8282H and 8282L Under Mattress Sensors – These are reusable sensors that are placed under the mattress. Lightweight sensors should be used with mattresses weighing between 38 and 42lbs. Heavy weight sensors should be used with mattresses weighing greater than 42lbs.

Chair Sensors

#8355 Chair Pad Sensor

#6509 Gel Cushion Sensor – This combines a pressure relieving gel foam cushion with a sensor pad.

#8360 Chair Belt Sensor – A self-releasing belt that helps position the patient's hips and reduce forward sliding. Attaches to the wheelchair with existing hardware.

#8371 Mobile Chair Belt Sensor - A self-releasing belt that helps position the patient's hips and reduce forward sliding. "D" ring attachments allow this to be easily moved from chair to chair to adjust to multiple patients and varying needs

Q. WHAT SENSORS ARE COMPATIBLE WITH EACH ALARM?

A. All sensors connect to the fall monitors with pre-connected "phone-jack" connection. This means all sensors are interchangeable between the KeepSafe and Sitter II Fall Monitors.

Q. WHAT FALL MONITORS CONNECT WITH NURSE CALL?

A. 8203 Personal Alarm II and 8281 Sitter II

Q. HOW DO THE FALL MONITORS CONNECT TO NURSE CALL STATION?

A. The Personal Alarm II and Sitter II Fall Monitors are shipped to you with a “nurse call cable” that has a ¼” jack on each end. One end of the cable is connected to the receptacle labeled “Nurse Call” on the side of the fall monitor. The other end is plugged into the wall jack of the nurse call panel. Depending on your nurse call system, a special adapter may be required. If so, contact a Posey Customer Service Professional at 800-447-6739 for details.

Q. WHAT IF THE ¼” JACK ON THE STANDARD NURSE CALL CABLE IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH MY NURSE CALL SYSTEM?

A. The Posey Company realizes that there are many nurse call systems that require different plug configurations. Therefore, adapters for these different nurse call systems are available from Posey. Please refer to pages xx-xx of this brochure to identify the appropriate adapter for your nurse call system.

Q. WHAT IF THE ADAPTER I NEED IS NOT LISTED?

A. If you do not see your nurse call system adapter listed simply contact one of our Customer Service Professionals at 800-44-Posey and we will find the adapter compatible with your nurse call system.

Q. CAN THE PATIENT/RESIDENT USE THE CALL BUTTON WHILE THE FALL MONITOR IS CONNECTED TO THE NURSE CALL SYSTEM?

A. Yes, you can utilize nurse call lights simultaneously. Depending on your nurse call system a special “Y” adapter may be necessary. “Y” adapters (catalog #8235S) are available through the Posey Company. Please contact a Posey Customer Service Professional at 800-447-6739.

Q. WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF RECORDING A PERSONALIZED MESSAGE?

A. The voice record feature of the Personal Alarm II and Sitter II Fall Monitors allows the caregiver or family member to record a personalized message of instruction that will “play back” to the patient/resident when the alarm is activated. This is ideal in situations where sounding an alarm may agitate the resident or disturb roommate’s sleep, or in situations where English is not the resident’s native language. An example might be “Mom, remember you have broken your hip. Please lie back down and wait for the nurse to help you.”

Q. WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF MULTIPLE TONE OPTIONS?

A. Having several tone and musical selections allows you to differentiate between residents as well as any other equipment.

Q. HOW DO I KNOW WHICH FALL MONITOR IS RIGHT FOR ME?

A. The factors in selecting a fall monitor will vary from patient to patient and facility to facility. Several things to consider when selecting a fall monitor are:

Location – Where will the fall monitors be used; bed or chair?

Patient Situation – What patients will I use the fall monitor with? Does a patient have a language barrier? Are there any special circumstances I must consider for this patient? Our Posey District Managers are available to assist in in-servicing our full line of products. Contact one of our Customer Service Professionals at 800-44-POSEY and they can help you locate your local Posey District Manager.

Q. WHAT TYPE OF WARRANTY DO THE POSEY FALL MONITORS COME WITH?

A. The Posey Company offers a lifetime warranty on all of our Fall Monitors. Posey warrants to the original purchaser that the Posey Fall Monitor is defect-free in materials and workmanship. If the product is found to be defective in workmanship or materials, we will replace or repair it without charge. This warranty does not cover accidental damage, water immersion, improper care, alteration, or misuse, and excludes claims for loss or theft. Please refer to page xx of this brochure for full warranty information.

Q. CAN POSEY MAGNET PULL CORD BED EXIT ALARM MAGNETS AFFECT CARDIAC PACEMAKER PATIENTS ?

A. Cardiac pacemaker manufacturers routinely warn against pacemaker patients coming in contact with strong magnet fields that could affect pacemaker function. Posey bed exit alarm pull cord magnets are strong enough that DIRECT CONTACT with a pacemaker could affect pacemaker function. Since pacemakers are inserted underneath the skin, direct contact of pull cord magnets with a patient's pacemaker is highly unlikely.

Posey submitted bed exit pull cord magnets to St. Jude Medical, a leading pacemaker supplier, for testing. Their recommendation is to keep Posey pull cord magnets more than 1 ½ inches from the patient's pacemaker insertion site. Another pacemaker supplier, Guidant, similarly recommended a minimum 1 ½ inch separation of Posey pull cord magnets from a patient's pacemaker insertion site. Additional information regarding pacemakers and electromagnetic interference can be obtained by visiting these web sites:

www.guidant.com
www.medtronic.com
www.sjm.com

Q. WHO DO I CALL IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

A. You may contact one of our Customer Service Professionals at 800-44-POSEY with any questions or concerns you might have.

Q. MAY I EVALUATE THESE PRODUCTS?

A. YES! All Posey products are available on a 30-day no risk evaluation.

Q. How do I get a Posey Fall Monitor for a 30-day evaluation?

A. It's very easy. Follow these xx easy steps to start your free evaluation.

1. Decide which Posey Fall Monitor(s) you would like to evaluate:

Sensor activated Fall Monitors

8281 Sitter II 8350 KeepSafe

Magnet & pull cord activated Fall Monitors

8202L Personal Alarm 8203 Personal Alarm II

2. If you choose to evaluate a sensor activated Fall Monitor (Sitter II or KeepSafe), you must select a sensor:

Bed Sensors

#8283 Disposable Bed Sensor – This is a 30-day “over the mattress” sensor which is recommended for short-term stay patient/residents.

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#8282H and 8282L Under Mattress

Sensors – These are reusable sensors that are placed under the mattress. Lightweight sensors should be used with mattresses weighing between 38 and 42lbs. Heavy weight sensors should be used with mattresses weighing greater than 42lbs.

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3. If you will be evaluating the Sitter II or Personal Alarm II you must decide if you want to connect the Fall Monitor to your nurse call system. Both Fall Monitors come with nurse call cable that will plug directly into a ¼” phone jack. Please see p. x for a diagram of the ¼” phone jack. If this jack is not available an adapter will be required. To find the compatible adapter you must determine the manufacturer of the nurse call system and examine the wall receptacle provided for the patient call button (pillow speaker). Refer to pages xx-xx to find the adapter you will need. The chart lists the nurse call system manufacturers alphabetically and provides a diagram of each plug configuration.

4. After you've selected the Fall Monitor, sensor and adapter you would like to evaluate, complete the “Free Evaluation Request Form”. Be sure to include a valid purchase order numbers and the name and title of the individual in your facility that authorized the evaluation.

Mail or fax the completed form to:

Posey Company
5635 Peck Road
Arcadia, CA 91006-0020
Fax: 800-767-3933

For Safety, Application, and Cleaning instructions for all Posey products, please refer to package insert instructions accompanying each product. Copies of all package insert instructions are available on the Posey website at www.posey.com.

We hope that this answers your questions. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call Posey Customer Service at (800) 44-Posey or (800) 447-6739.