



BUYERS GUIDE TO
Door Control Systems

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From high-end amenities to personalized services, long term care facilities continue to make great advances in providing the best environments for our aging population.

With this in mind, it's crucial to include the safety and security needs of residents and staff.

With the rapid evolution of technology, there is a lot to consider when investing in safety systems to meet these needs for many years to come. This guide is designed to assist you when evaluating the options available in the market today.



When looking for a system to control your doors, it is important to identify the needs of your population today and consider how the system can adapt if their needs change.

Consideration

Do you want a locked building or area, an open concept layout where people can come and go, or a mix of both?

Will you change occupancy type in the future?

Do you serve residents with memory issues?

Most communities need both types of control and the needs of the community may change with time.

Door Control Explained

There are two types of door control that may apply to your facility.

Wander Management prevents residents at risk of wandering from leaving the building.

Access Control prevents unauthorized people from entering the building.

Traditionally, vendors will provide two different systems to meet both of these requirements.

Some wander management vendors claim that their systems can do both, but there might be missing access control features that you will need.

A single platform for wander management and access control greatly improves the reliability and flexibility of the system.

Evaluation Checklist

Door Control

This checklist contains important considerations for evaluating door control systems:

- Is the system a wander management system or an access control system?
- Do any of your doors require both wander management and access control?
- How easily can the system be changed from one to the other if your facility needs change?
- Are the devices installed at each door discreet and aesthetically pleasing?
- Can the system control multiple items such as locks, door strikes, crash bars and automatic door openers at the same time?

Access Control

- Can specific doors be easily locked and unlocked with a schedule?
- Can access credentials be changed at a computer or do you have to program each door individually?
- Can you have a keycard or unique code for each staff member to track their activity?
- Can credentials be disabled at specific doors or by time of day?
- Can certain credentials be deactivated when a wandering resident is detected at a door?
- Can credentials assigned to a resident's family member be automatically deactivated when the resident is discharged?

Evaluation Checklist

Wander Management

- Is the wander tag aesthetically pleasing?
- How long does the battery in the resident's wander tag last?
- To help reduce interference issues, is the tag technology Bluetooth based?
- Can you test the tag at a distance without disturbing the resident and is the test saved in a report?
- Does the system provide a resident name when a door alarm occurs?
- Can the system allow or prevent specific family members from taking residents out of the facility?

Software

- Does the system include a software package for system administration and reports?
- Is the software easy to use?
- How detailed are the system reports and will they be able to provide information on the resident and staff involved with an alarm?
- Can the system send alerts to pagers, texts, email, and mobile apps?
- Are new features and improvements being added to the software regularly?

When selecting and investing in a door control system, partnering with the right vendor is vital.

Choosing a Vendor

Here are some things to consider ensuring the vendor you choose is a good fit for you and your mission.

References

Ask the vendor for a list of references that you can contact. Ask them how they like the system, how responsive the vendor has been to requests for service and support, and how long it takes to get supplies.

Site Visit

Ask the vendor to arrange a visit to a site that uses the system they are recommending. Ask the staff that use the system for feedback.

Technical Support

Call the technical support phone number for the vendor you are considering. Make note of how long you were on hold. Since problems don't only happen during business hours, ask them if they have 24/7/365 emergency support.

How We Can Help

There are a lot of items to consider when you are looking at a system to protect residents and staff.

With 30 years of experience in senior care technology, JNL would love to help you find a flexible door control solution that meets both the current and future needs of your facility. Give us a call or send us an email:

Email: info@jnltech.net

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More Info at <http://jnltech.net>