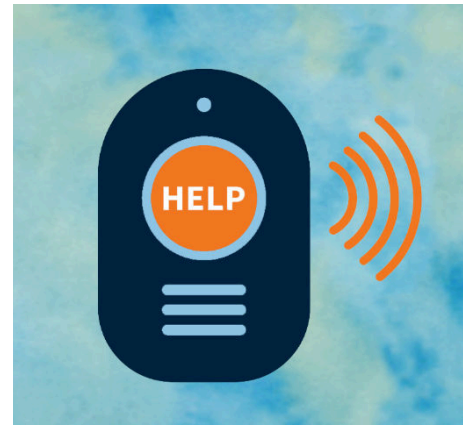


Personal Emergency Response Systems

Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) are devices that let people easily call for help in emergencies. Some systems can send alerts automatically if they sense something is wrong.



Choosing a PERS

When selecting a system, consider your loved one's **needs and risks**. Some devices are wearable, while others are designed for home use. Features vary but may include **fall detection**, **GPS tracking**, **two-way communication**, **home security monitoring**, **medical alerts**, and **daily check-in services**.

Cost and Payment

PERS **costs vary** based on the device, services, installation, and add-ons. Medicare usually doesn't cover these systems, but some **Medicare Advantage** plans or **Medicaid** might. You can also check with the **Department of Veterans Affairs** or your local **Area Agency on Aging** for possible support.

Installation and Testing

If installing a PERS system yourself, **follow instructions carefully** - don't rely on guesswork. If a professional is installing it, ask any questions you have, even if they seem minor, and request a demonstration before they leave. **Regularly test the system** to make sure it's working correctly.

Making Your Loved One Comfortable

Involve your loved one in the decision-making process as much as possible, from discussing necessary features and comparing options, to meeting with installers. They **need to feel comfortable** with the device and know how to use it in an emergency.

Who Can Benefit From a PERS?

A PERS device might be needed if someone:

- Has an illness that makes it hard to call for help when needed.
- Lives alone and has a history of falling.
- Has recently had a stroke or other serious medical emergency.
- Has Alzheimer's or another type of dementia.
- Lives far away from caregivers.