

## **Guideline to Determine Care Companion Need**

To Request a Care Companion (CC)

1. Complete the Care Companion request through ORCHID when a CC need is identified or discontinued
- 2.
3. Nursing staffing office rates the Priority of Need on a 1-4 scale each shift

### **Priority of Need Scale**

#### **4 Highest Risk**

- Death or serious injury could result without a CC
- Suicide Risk
- Combative secondary to cognitive impairment
- Sexual aggression
- Self injury to self/injury to others
- Seclusion

#### **3 High Risk**

- Pulling on medical devices/lines
- Falls risk/history of falls
- Trauma to surgical site
- Other alternatives ineffective

#### **2 Moderate Risk**

- Could be managed with other alternatives but 1:1 or 1:2 observation is preferred
- Risk behavior resolving but still require intervention

#### **1 Minimal Risk**

- Other alternative effective
  - Patient need for CC decreasing
  - Almost ready to DC Care Companion
4. CC request must be submitted through ORCHID 2 hours before the start of each shift
  5. If CC is unavailable, an alternative plan for maintaining the patient's safety is reported to the ANO
  6. Each CC request must be re-evaluated every 8 hours and upon change in the patient's condition
  7. Changes require re-submission of the CC request through ORCHID and communication with ANO.
  8. The charge Nurse will review the request and appropriateness of CC assignment.

Los Angeles General Medical Center  
Nursing Policy 960 Attachment A: Guideline to Determine Care Companion Need

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