

The Gadget Geezer

by Les Goldberg

CareLine Phone Rings 'Loud' for Seniors

Is your house phone an inconvenience? Do your aging eyes have trouble with small numbers and hard-to-read screens? Does the phone alert you when it's time to take your meds? If you answered yes to these questions, then you should consider replacing your clunky old phone for the new CareLine home safety telephone system from VTech, Inc.

Designed with experts in aging and technology, the affordable and easy-to-use CareLine system incorporates features to meet seniors' daily communication needs, including large displays, reminder capabilities, volume boost and a wearable pendant with one-button dialing that directly calls people that seniors communicate with most.

CareLine is designed to support the need to stay connected, linking you with the people you can trust to help you age in place independently.

The three-piece CareLine SN6197 system includes a full-featured corded phone as the base unit, a cordless handset and a wearable pendant, each designed for optimal usability if you happen



to be struggling with hearing, dexterity or vision. The system's large displays and buttons, audio assistance and a reminder capability accommodate these challenges.

The pendant allows you to communicate with friends and family at your fingertips and conveniently make and receive calls, listen to voicemail messages, review missed calls, confirm the date and time or receive programmed reminders for medication, appointments or other events.

You or a family member can set reminders directly through the corded phone base or with a phone call.

When the set time arrives, the system reminds you with a light and audio cue. In addition, the pendant provides a quick resource to call for help in an emergency through the home land-line service.

It makes an affordable alternative to personal emergency response systems (PERS) that require monthly fees, installation costs and contracts. The lightweight pendant can be worn around your neck or clipped to a waistband for mobility and comfort.

When immediate assistance is needed, you can push either of the two speed-dial keys or use voice command

to call self-programmed contacts, such as 911, a family member, a trusted friend or neighbor.

"Imagine leaving your mother a recorded reminder about her doctor's appointment or connecting with her while she is outside gardening. CareLine provides the independence and security seniors and their families desire," said Matt Ramage, senior vice president of product management at VTech.

Using the DECT 6.0 (Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunications) standard, both the wireless handset and pendant are connected up to 600 feet away from the base. Other features designed for usability include:

- Large buttons and displays with full duplex speakerphones on all three devices: the corded phone, handset and pendant

- Voice commands and one-button dialing with the safety pendant to reach preferred contacts

- Audio Assist® that temporarily increases volume for easier hearing on calls

- Visual ringing indicator and Voice Announce® caller ID, so calls won't be missed

- Audio and visual cues for programmed reminders

- Photo speed dial on the corded phone for quick reference of frequently dialed numbers

- The pendant comes with rechargeable batteries that last seven days in standby mode or up to five hours of talk time. Users are notified when the pendant is at 10 percent of battery life, and a small light indicates proper placement in the charging station.

- Available at Radio Shack
- Retail price: \$119.95
- A limited one-year warranty.

For more information on VTech and CareLine, please visit www.vtechphones.com.

