

Nursing Home Checklist

When looking at a nursing home for your loved one, it is important to consider and ask the following:

- Is the facility certified for Medicare or Medicaid, or is it private pay only?
- What are the daily costs and what services are included in these costs?
- Is the current licensing review posted in the entranceway, and dated within 15 months?
- What is the ratio of staff to residents? Does this comply with the licensing requirements for the center?
- Are the residents transferred or discharged when their care needs change?
- Are the residents transferred or discharged when their money runs out?

Look around and observe whether the residents:

- Are clean and well groomed
- Have rooms that are tidy, clean and odor free
- Have personal belongings in their room
- Have a nurse call system in by their bed

It is important to look at the staff and their interactions with both the residents and one another. Is the staff:

- Attentive to the resident's needs?
- Talking and interacting with the residents respectfully?
- Displaying compassion in their actions?
- Working together in a professional way?

Make sure to ask about the professional staff on site. Does the staff consist of a:

- Registered nurse supervising the nursing staff?
- Nurse available seven days a week?
- Social work?
- Recreation activity director?
- Physical Therapist?
- Occupational Therapist?
- Speech Therapist?
- Physician?

Does the center have the following medical services available?

- Vision Care
- Hearing Care
- Dental Care
- Foot Care
- Mental Health Services