



Below is a suggested checklist to use when evaluating the nursing homes you visit. Use these checklists items to record your impressions of each facility when considering if it is a proper fit for the care needs of your loved one.

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- Cleanliness
 - Does the facility's cleanliness meet your expectations?
 - Location
 - Is the patient happy with the location?
 - Is the nursing home conveniently located for your family to visit frequently?
 - Is the nursing home's location convenient for the patient's physician?
 - Is the nursing home near a hospital?
 - Licensure and Medicare/Medicaid Certification
 - When was the facility's last state survey?
 - Is the facility's last survey available to review?
 - Is the nursing home certified to provide Medicare/Medicaid coverage?
 - Does the administrator have a current license issued by the state?
 - Does the facility have a quality assurance program?
 - Staff Attitudes
 - Does the staff visibly show respect and interest for the patients?
 - Is the staff quick to respond to a patient's call for assistance?
 - Is the staff courteous
 - Is the administrator available for the patients to ask questions, or discuss problems and concerns?
 - Is the staff respectful and amiable to each other?
 - Staff / Patient ratio
 - How many front-line care providers are on staff?
 - How many registered nurses, licensed nurse practitioners, nurse's aides, etc.
 - Costs
 - What is the daily charge for care?
 - Does the basic daily charge cover all necessary services?
 - If the patient leaves the nursing home, are the advance payments returned?
 - Medical Services
 - Are personal physicians allowed to treat patients?
 - Is a physician available in an emergency?

- In an emergency, will the patient's personal physician be notified?
- Is regular medical attention guaranteed?
- Is confidentiality of medical records guaranteed?
- What medical services are available at the facility?
 - Care planning
 - How often does a care plan occur?
 - Are patients and their families involved in care plans?
 - Hospitalization
 - Is emergency transportation available?
 - Does the nursing home have an arrangement with a local hospital?
 - Will the patient's bed be held if he or she must be hospitalized?
 - Pharmacy
 - Is a pharmacist available for patients and staff?
 - Does a pharmacist review the drug treatment plans?
 - Are routine and emergency drugs available?
 - Therapy Program
 - Are speech therapy and occupational therapy services available to patients?
 - Is a qualified physical therapist available to supervise therapy programs at the nursing home?
 - Activities
 - What group and individual activities are available to patients?
 - Is participation encouraged?
 - Does the facility have volunteers working with the patients?
 - What are your volunteer policies?
 - Are offsite trips planned for the patients?
 - Are the patients involved in the community in any way?
 - Social Services
 - Does the nursing home have a social worker available to assist individuals and families?
 - Fire Safety
 - Are exits unobstructed and clearly marked?
 - Is the facility compliant with state and federal codes?
 - Does the facility conduct fire drills?
 - Are emergency evacuation plans posted with floor plans throughout the facility?
 - Grounds
 - Are walkways clear and free of hazardous objects?
 - Is parking adequate for visitors?
 - Are the grounds accessible to handicapped individuals?
 - Does the facility have outdoor furniture for the patients and their visitors?
 - Food / Dining
 - Does a dietitian plan menus for residents requiring special diets?

- Are the patient's preferences considered?
 - Does the menu vary?
 - How much time are the patients given to eat?
 - Is the dining room easy to navigate for those in wheelchairs?
 - Is food delivered to patients unable to eat in the dining room?
 - Is assistance with eating given to those patients who need it?
 - Does the nursing home provide snacks?
- Grooming
- Are barbers and beauticians available?
 - Does the nursing home provide a laundry service?
 - Does the nursing home provide assistance with bathing and grooming?
- Patient rights
- Does the facility have a detailed description of the patient's rights posted in the facility?
 - Are the patient's rights available for your review?
 - Are the staff members trained to protect dignity and privacy, and abide by the patient's rights?
- Religious observance
- Does the facility make arrangements for patients to worship as they please?
- Family involvement
- Does the nursing home have a family council?
 - What volunteer opportunities are available?
- Other notes: