



Own Your Future Nursing Home Check List

How Do I Select the Right Nursing Home?

The first step for families is to identify the needs of the person seeking nursing home care. You will need an assessment of the individual’s physical, mental and emotional needs by a professional who is not associated with any specific nursing home. This assessment can come from the individual’s doctor or a geriatric evaluation center.

Nursing Home Checklist

	Yes	No	Comments
Basic Information			
Is the facility Medicare certified?			
Is the facility Medicaid certified?			
Nursing home has level of care you need (e.g. skilled, custodial), and a bed is available.			
Has special services if needed in a separate unit (e.g. dementia, ventilator, or rehabilitation) and a bed is available.			
Nursing home is located close enough for friends and family to visit.			
Resident’s appearance			
Residents are clean, appropriately dressed for the season or time of day, and well groomed			
Do they seem happy?			
Do they seem to be safe?			
Nursing Home Living Space			
Nursing home is free from overwhelming unpleasant odors.			
Nursing home appears clean and well kept.			
Temperature in the nursing home is comfortable for residents.			
Nursing home has good lighting.			
Noise levels in the dining room and other common areas are comfortable.			
Smoking is not allowed or may be restricted to certain areas of the nursing home.			
Furnishings are sturdy, yet comfortable and attractive.			

	Yes	No	Comments
Staff			
The relationship between staff and the residents appears to be warm, polite, and respectful.			
Name tags are worn by all members of the staff.			
Staff knocks on the door before entering a resident's room and refers to resident by name.			
The nursing home offers a training and continuing education program for all staff.			
The guide on your tour knows the residents by name and is recognized by them.			
There is a full-time registered Nurse (RN) in the nursing home at all times.			
The same team of nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA's) work with the same residents 4 to 5 days per week.			
Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA) work with a reasonable number of residents.			
CNAs are involved in care planning meetings.			
Full-time social worker on staff.			
There is a licensed doctor on staff. Is he or she there daily? Can he or she be reached at all times?			
The nursing home's management team has worked together for at least one year.			
Residents' Rooms			
Residents may have personal belongings and/or furniture in their rooms.			
Each resident has storage space (closet and drawers) in his or her room.			
Each resident has a window in his or her bedroom.			
Residents have access to a personal telephone and television.			
Residents have a choice of roommates.			
Water pitchers can be reached by residents.			
There are policies and procedures to protect residents' possessions.			
Hallways, Stairs, Lounges, and Bathrooms			
Exits are clearly marked.			
There are quiet areas where residents can visit with friends and family.			
The nursing home has smoke detectors and			

	Yes	No	Comments
sprinklers.			
All common areas, resident rooms, and doorways are designed for wheelchair use.			
There are handrails in the hallways and grab bars in the bathrooms.			
Menus and Food			
Residents have a choice of food items at each meal. (Ask if their favorite foods are served)			
Nutritious snacks are available upon request.			
Staff help residents eat and drink at mealtimes if help is needed.			
Activities			
Residents, including those who are unable to leave their rooms, may choose to take part in a variety of activities.			
The nursing home has outdoor areas for resident use and staff help residents go outside.			
The nursing home has an active volunteer program.			
Safety and Care			
The nursing home has an emergency evacuation plan and holds regular fire drills.			
Residents get preventive care, like yearly flu shots, to help keep them healthy.			
Residents may still see their personal doctors.			
The nursing home has an arrangement with a nearby hospital for emergencies.			
Care plan meetings are held at times that are convenient for residents and family members to attend whenever possible.			
The nursing home has corrected all deficiencies (failure to meet one or more Federal or State requirements) on their last state inspection report.			
Notes			

After your visit, list the pros and cons of each facility.

Pros	Cons

[Nursing Home compare](http://www.Medicare.gov) at www.Medicare.gov provides detailed information about every Medicare and Medicaid-certified nursing home in the country.