

Nursing Home Checklist

You're ready to evaluate a nursing home. Use this checklist to fully assess the quality of your nursing home options, and choose a provider that's right for you.

COMMUNITY	<i>Nursing Home 1</i>	<i>Nursing Home 2</i>	<i>Nursing Home 3</i>
Community name			
Community address			
Community phone			
Contact person			
Does the nursing home have an opening?			

LOCATION	<i>Nursing Home 1</i>	<i>Nursing Home 2</i>	<i>Nursing Home 3</i>
Is the surrounding area safe?			
Is there public transportation within walking distance of the nursing home?			
Do family and friends live close enough to the nursing home to visit?			

Is there a safe and pleasant place outside for residents and families to sit and/or walk?			
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THE BUILDING	<i>Nursing Home 1</i>	<i>Nursing Home 2</i>	<i>Nursing Home 3</i>
Are the building grounds well maintained?			
Is the building well maintained?			
Are the interior public areas attractive and well maintained?			
Are the private areas, such as the hallways and rooms attractive, well lit and well maintained?			
Is the kitchen clean?			
Are all areas free from odors (of urine, feces and/or strong chemicals)?			

AMENITIES	<i>Nursing Home 1</i>	<i>Nursing Home 2</i>	<i>Nursing Home 3</i>
Public sitting room(s)?			
Dining room(s)?			
Snack bar?			
Activity room?			

Gym?			
Pool?			
Beauty salon?			
Entertainment Room(s)?			
Computer room?			
Space for religious services?			
Other?			

SERVICES	<i>Nursing Home 1</i>	<i>Nursing Home 2</i>	<i>Nursing Home 3</i>
Are there menu choices at each meal?			
What types of special diets are offered?			
Does the food look, smell and taste good?			
Are snacks available throughout the day?			
How often are rooms cleaned?			
How often is laundry done?			
Does laundry include personal items?			
Are there daily activities?			

Are there regular, organized outings?			
Does the community provide transportation for outings, medical appointments, shopping, religious services or other activities?			

CARE	<i>Nursing Home 1</i>	<i>Nursing Home 2</i>	<i>Nursing Home 3</i>
Does the nursing home offer custodial care?			
Does the nursing home offer physical, occupational and/or speech therapies?			
Does the nursing home offer respiration therapy?			
Does the nursing home offer dialysis?			
Does the nursing home have a ventilator unit?			
Does the nursing home have a dementia unit?			
Does the nursing home offer other specialized care?			

Which (if any) of the following medical services are available on site: podiatry, dentistry, optometry, other?			
Is the nursing home able to handle residents with difficult behaviors?			
Under what circumstances is a resident asked to leave?			
Are residents allowed to hire a private caregiver?			

CURRENT RESIDENTS	<i>Nursing Home 1</i>	<i>Nursing Home 2</i>	<i>Nursing Home 3</i>
Do residents look well cared for?			
Do residents look happy?			
Are residents engaged with activities?			
Do staff members interact pleasantly with residents?			
Do staff members know residents by name?			
Is there an active Resident's Council and Family Council?			

STAFFING	<i>Nursing Home 1</i>	<i>Nursing Home 2</i>	<i>Nursing Home 3</i>
How many registered nurses (RNs) are present during the day?			
How many RNs are present at night?			
How many licensed practical nurses (LPNs) are present during the day?			
How many LPNs are present during the night?			
How many certified nursing assistants (CNAs) are present during the day?			
How many CNAs are present at night?			
How many residents are assigned to each CNA during the day?			
How many residents are assigned to each CNA during the night?			
Is there a social worker present during the day?			
Is there an activity person available during the day?			

Is there a dietitian available during the day?			
How many years has the current director of nursing (DON) been employed at the community?			
How many years has each staff member worked at nursing home, on average?			

THE CONTRACT & COSTS	<i>Nursing Home 1</i>	<i>Nursing Home 2</i>	<i>Nursing Home 3</i>
Daily cost for a private room?			
Daily cost for a semi-private room?			
Are there different costs for different levels of care?			
What is the cost of care in the dementia unit?			
Under what conditions do rates for care or other terms change?			
Is an initial deposit required? If yes, how much is it?			
How much of the initial deposit is returned when the resident leaves?			

Are there other charges?			
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MEDICARE & MEDICAID BEDS	<i>Nursing Home 1</i>	<i>Nursing Home 2</i>	<i>Nursing Home 3</i>
Is the nursing home Medicare certified?			
Is the nursing home Medicaid certified?			
How many beds are Medicare beds?			
How many beds are Medicaid beds?			
Is there a waiting list for a Medicaid bed, and if so, how long is the wait?			
How many residents share a Medicaid room?			

LICENSURE & ACCREDITATION	<i>Nursing Home 1</i>	<i>Nursing Home 2</i>	<i>Nursing Home 3</i>
Is the nursing home license displayed?			
Is the license in good standing?			
Are nursing home personnel forthcoming about current survey results?			
Are Resident Rights			

posters visible on each floor or in each section?			
Is contact information for the state ombudsman's office posted on each floor or in each section?			
Is the nursing home accredited by any accreditation organization?			

Notes and Personal Impressions: