

Selecting a Nursing Home

The following guidelines may help you in your selection:

GENERAL

- Does the home have a license from the NYS Department of Health?
- Is the administrator licensed by the NYS Department of Health?
- Is a written statement of Resident's Rights clearly posted?
- Are visiting hours convenient for residents and visitors?
- Has the home corrected all deficiencies on latest NYS survey?

GENERAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Is the nursing home clean, orderly, and well-maintained?

ATTITUDES AND ATMOSPHERE

- Is the general atmosphere of the nursing home warm, pleasant, and cheerful?
- Are staff members cheerful, courteous, respectful, and enthusiastic?
- Do residents look well groomed and cared for and generally content?
- Can residents choose their own clothes to wear, decorate their rooms, and keep a few prized possessions in their rooms?
- Do residents, other visitors, and volunteers speak favorably about the home?
- Does the home perform background checks on all new staff?

NURSING, MEDICAL, & OTHER SERVICES

- Is nursing staff adequate to meet residents' needs?
- Is there a physician on staff?
- Does the home have an arrangement for dental services?
- If a resident requires special services, such as rehabilitation therapy or a therapeutic diet, does the home provide them?
- Are resident and/or families involved in care planning?

Information provided in part by the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.

PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

- Does a qualified pharmacist maintain and monitor a record of each resident's drug therapy?
- Do residents receive preventive care, such as flu shots?

DINING SERVICES

- Do residents have a choice of food at each meal?
- Does the food look and smell appetizing?
- Are snacks available on request?
- Are there special meals for people on therapeutic diets?
- Is the dining room attractive and comfortable?
- Do residents who need it get help in eating?

SOCIAL WORK & RESIDENT ACTIVITIES

- Are social work services available to residents and their families?
- Does the nursing home offer a varied program of recreational, cultural, and intellectual activities for residents?
- Do residents have an opportunity to attend religious services and talk with clergy both in and outside the home?
- Does the home have an active volunteer program?

RESIDENTS' ROOMS

- Are there curtains in semi-private rooms to provide privacy for each resident?
- Do bathrooms have adequate privacy?
- Are nurse and emergency call buttons located at each resident's bed and bathroom?
- Is there a comfortable lounge where residents can chat, read, play games, watch television, or just relax?
- Does the nursing home have an outdoor area where residents can get fresh air and sunshine?

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Is the home certified to participate in Medicare and/or Medicaid programs?
- What services are included in the basic charge?
- Does the contract between the resident and the home clearly state costs, date of admission, services to be provided, discharge, and transfer conditions?