

The Nursing Home Checklist

Immediate Need

Use this list if there is an immediate need for a nursing home bed (for example the family member is in a hospital for discharge)

Yes	No	Basic Information	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the nursing home Medicare-certified?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the nursing home Medicaid-certified?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have a current license from the state?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the latest state survey available for review?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has the nursing home corrected all deficiencies (failure to meet one or more state or Federal requirements) on its last inspection report?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home administrator have a current license from the state?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the location convenient for friends and family to visit?	
		Ask questions about the specific therapy your loved one needs (most common services used are: physical, occupational, speech/language therapy)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have the level of care/services needed for this individual?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have a bed available?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home offer rehabilitation services needed (physical therapy, speech or occupational therapy)?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If needed, does the nursing home offer specialized services, such as a special unit for care for a resident with dementia or Alzheimer's care, or other specialty services?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	How long has the physical therapist (or insert service needed) been licensed to practice?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	How long has the physical therapist (or insert service needed) been employed in this nursing home?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	How often is the physical therapy (or insert service needed) department open?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will my loved one be offered individualized or group therapy sessions? (or insert service needed)?	
Yes	No	Costs	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are all services that the resident needs included in the basic daily charge? If not, what services are not covered? (ask for a written list) What changes in resident condition or other reasons will lead to a resident being transferred or discharged from the nursing home? If the stay goes beyond the time period covered by Medicare or private insurance: Who pays for continued care if needed?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will the resident remain in the same room, on the same unit? If home care is needed after discharge how much time will I be given to make arrangements?	
Yes	No	Nursing Home Living Spaces	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the nursing home free from overwhelming unpleasant odors?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home appear clean and well kept?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the temperature in the nursing home comfortable?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have good lighting?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the noise levels in the dining room and other common areas comfortable?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is smoking allowed?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	If so, is it restricted to certain areas of the nursing home?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the furnishings sturdy, yet comfortable and attractive?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are exits clearly marked?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there quiet areas where residents can visit with friends and family?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are all common areas, resident rooms, and doorways designed for wheelchair use?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are handrails and grab bars appropriately placed in the hallways and bathrooms?	

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Yes	No	Staff	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the relationship between the staff and residents appear to be warm, polite, and respectful?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the staff show respect for residents by knocking on the door before entering a resident's room?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the staff refer to residents by name?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home check to make sure they don't hire staff members who have been found guilty of abuse, neglect or mistreatment of residents?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there a licensed, registered nurse (RN) present 24 hours a day, 7 days per week?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there a person on staff that is assigned to meet social service needs?	

Yes	No	Residents' Rooms	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can residents have personal belongings and furniture in their rooms?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does each resident have storage space (closet and drawers) in his or her room?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does each resident have a window in his or her bedroom?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do residents have access to a personal phone and television?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do residents have a choice of roommates?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there policies and procedures to protect residents' possessions, including lockable cabinets and closets?	

Yes	No	Menus and Food	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do residents have a choice of food items at each meal?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home provide special dietary needs (like low-salt) or preferences (such as kosher meals)?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are nutritious snacks available upon request?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the staff help residents eat and drink at mealtimes if help is needed?	

Yes	No	Activities	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can residents, including those who are unable to leave their rooms, choose to take part in a variety of activities?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do residents have a role in planning or choosing activities that are available?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have outdoor areas for resident use?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the staff available to help residents go outside?	

Yes	No	Safety and Care	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can residents see their personal doctors?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the facility help in arranging transportation for this purpose?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	What hospital arrangements are in place for medical emergencies?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are care plan meetings held with residents and family members at times that are convenient and flexible whenever possible?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the residents clean, well groomed, and appropriately dressed for the season or time of day?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have an emergency evacuation plan and hold regular fire drills?	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the nursing home have smoke detectors and sprinklers?	

It's a good idea to visit the nursing home when your family member is admitted. It's best to visit on a different day of the week and at a different time of day than your initial visit. Staffing levels can change at different times of the day and on weekends.