

Nursing Home Selection Checklist



No one knows better than you what your loved one will need in his or her nursing facility, but there are several criteria that apply to most situations. They deserve the best. Use this checklist to find it. [Click here to download a copy with our compliments.](#)

Name of Facility:	
Date Visited:	
Contact Person:	

General Details	Y/N	Notes
Is the facility certified by Medicare or Medicaid?		
Is the most recent inspection on display?		
Is the facility close enough to you?		
Does the facility meet the <u>specific care requirements</u> of your loved one?		
Does the facility look and feel inviting?		

Recreation and Activities	Y/N	Notes
Are recreation activities ample and varied?		
Is there adequate mental stimulation?		
Are there social events?		
Is exercise and fitness part of the program?		
Are there creative activities?		
Are all residents, regardless of ability, encouraged and able to participate in the activities program?		

Therapy and Medical Facilities	Y/N	Notes
Are the specific medical requirements of your loved one met?		
Are the specific physical therapy requirements of your loved one met?		
Are medical personnel suitably trained and experienced?		
Does the ratio of RNs and CNAs to residents allow for adequate care?		
Is the nursing staff available 24 hours per day?		
Is the nearest hospital or emergency room within a reasonable distance?		

Resident Rooms	Y/N	Notes
Are residents allowed to decorate and personalize their rooms?		
Are the rooms clean and neat?		
Does each room have a window and adequate lighting?		
Do shared rooms provide some degree of privacy?		
Is there a call-button for each bed and bathroom?		
Is there adequate space and storage (closet, drawers, shelves)?		
Does the room provide a secure location (lockable cabinet or drawer, closet safe) for valuables?		

Dining	Y/N	Notes
Is the daily menu nutritiously balanced?		
Do residents have some element of choice at each meal?		
Are nutritious snacks available throughout		

the day?		
Are the specific dietary needs of your loved one met?		
Does staff assist those unable to feed themselves?		
Are residents allowed to eat in their rooms?		
Does the dining room allow for socializing during meals?		

Common Areas	Y/N	Notes
Does the facility allow for ease of mobility?		
Are there handrails in hallways and bathrooms?		
Are there wheelchair ramps?		
Do outdoor areas provide cover from the elements and accessibility to all?		
Does furniture and decoration appear modern and comfortable?		
Is the home free of strong and unpleasant odors?		
Does the home appear clean and well cared for overall?		

Safety Concerns	Y/N	Notes
Are there smoke detectors in common areas and resident rooms?		
Are there adequate sprinklers?		
Are exits clearly marked and accessible to all?		
Fire extinguishers and hoses?		
Is there an evacuation plan? Is it indicated on signage?		
Are doors and windows secure?		
Do visitors need to sign in?		

Staff	Y/N	Notes
Does the staff appear friendly and caring towards the residents?		
Does the staff refer to residents by name?		
Do staff members wear name tags?		
Is there appropriate physical contact between staff and residents?		
Do staff members knock before entering rooms?		
Are all staff members subject to background checks before hiring?		
Is staff turnover a reasonable amount?		
Is there a good mix of Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Certified Nursing Assistants, and Licensed Vocational Nurses?		

General	Y/N	Notes
Is there a spot available?		
Have you compared this facility to another within your town or city using Nursing Home Compare on Medicare.gov?		
Does the facility have a resident and/or family council?		
Has the director been there for less than a year?		
Has the facility had any federal fines or denied payments in the past three years?		
Has the facility failed inspection in the past few years?		
Are there strict visiting hours?		

Other Notes, Questions, and Concerns

Use this page to record any additional questions or concerns you have about the facility. You may then ask or confirm with the director, or use an online resource such as Medicare.gov.